



THE TIMES Tomorrow

Mummy's girl
The traumatic tale of an adopted girl who traced her real mother

Brighton line
Bernard Levin on the bombing, Mrs Thatcher and a lesson in human nature

Eastern promise
Flourishing black markets are propping up the economies of Eastern Europe

Cup challenge
Stuart Jones previews the England-Finland World Cup match

Portfolio

The Times Portfolio competition prize was shared by four winners yesterday. Squadron Leader David Henchie of Ickenham, Middlesex; Mr David Mathewson of London; Mr Lawrence Pickett of London and Mr Albert Thompson of Belfast each received £500. Portfolio list, page 28; how to play, information service, back page.

Duarte and rebels begin talks

President Duarte of El Salvador met rebel leaders for the first time in the small town of La Palma, to begin negotiations on ending the five-year civil war. Talks were held behind closed doors as huge crowds thronged the streets.

Peace quest, page 6
Leading article, page 17
Talks begin, back page

Tory complaints

Conservative leaders of shire councils have complained to the Government that it has failed to meet promises to low-spending authorities on spending targets.

Punjab warrant

The Punjab Government has ordered the arrest of an Associated Press Journalist over a report from Amritsar which appeared in *The Times* four months ago.

Heading west

Hopes for détente were expressed as President Ceausescu of Romania visited Bonn, Hungary's Mr Kadar arrived in Paris, and Herr Honecker of East Germany prepared to visit Helsinki.

Bid hopes grow

Dixons, the electrical goods chain, raised hopes that it would succeed in its takeover bid for Currys by revealing that it might raise its £182m offer.

Chess draw

World chess champion Anatoly Karpov agreed to draw after 33 moves in his thirteenth game against challenger Gar Kasparov, leaving Karpov's 4-0 lead unchanged. Early moves, page 6.

Tanker freed

Three tugs pulled a 78,000-tonne fully laden oil tanker clear of rocks near the entrance to Milford Haven harbour.

Kent's new role

Mr Bruce Kent is resigning as general secretary of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament to concentrate on publicity for the CND.

Austin sales up

Austin Rover sales this month have overtaken Ford's, despite Ford's discount offer to dealers of up to £1,500 a car.

Leader page 17
Letters: On 'Star wars' from Dr C. S. Gray; industrial production, from Prof J. L. Burbridge; youth service, from Prof D. Marsland; and Mrs E. Hoodless.
Leading articles: Future industry; El Salvador; Future of the NHS.

Features, page 14-16
Northern Ireland after the Brighton bomb: proving that mail can be bountiful; Roger Cruikshank on the Soviet chemical capons build-up; Spectrum; last European youth's quiet rebellion; Fashion: London styles.

Obituary, page 18
Mr Martin Ryle, Miss Anna Allen.

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Pit peace talks collapse after an hour at Acas

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Peace talks aimed at resolving the miners' strike, now in its thirty-second week, collapsed last night at the headquarters of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service in London.

Leaders of the National Union of Mineworkers blamed the National Coal Board for breaking off negotiations, "destroying the possibility of an early end to this dispute".

The two sides met for less than an hour last night to discuss various peace proposals put forward by Acas officials, before deciding to call off the latest initiative.

The union put out a prepared text just before 8 p.m. saying that on Thursday morning a document presented by Acas contained a suggested basis for negotiations which was accepted by the NUM but rejected by the board.

On Friday morning Acas put forward a second document which reflected the board's response to this initial proposition which was acceptable to the board but not to the union.

A third, modified proposal from conciliation officials had been put to the parties on Friday evening and had proved acceptable to the union. The board had considered it over the weekend.

It is now obvious that their consideration involved consultation and that, once again, the Government has intervened to prevent an early settlement.

There were conflicting opinions about who was to blame as the two sides left Acas headquarters in St James' Square last night but it seems clear that

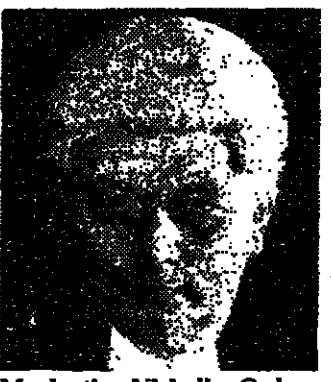
an early settlement of the seven and a half months old dispute can now be ruled out.

Mr Arthur Scargill, the union president, issued a statement from Acas offices, restating the original aims of the union on strike in mid-March.

He said: "The NUM emphasises yet again that there can be no settlement of this dispute unless the coal board drops its demand that pits should be closed on 'economic' grounds, keeps open the five pits currently under threat and withdraws the pit closure programme announced on March 6".

Mr Scargill added: "The NUM must yet again make it clear to the press that the union rejects the closure of any pits on so-called 'economic' grounds, and it is this fundamental point which is at the heart of the dispute".

His statement confirms the analysis in *The Times* yesterday



Mr Justice Nicholls: Orders on fine

that the stoppage will not be called off until the board and the Government back off from their original pit closure programme.

The statement, from the Scargill camp, came in response to television news reports last night which the union said were "totally inaccurate" in stating that the union had accepted that the closure of "uneconomic" pits could in principle be referred to an independent appeal party.

Mr MacGregor said it was "nonsense" to say the coal board had caused the talks to break down. The board had been the only side to make concessions and had gone to Acas reluctantly.

"I am always disappointed when our good people are kept out on strike on artificial conditions by a group of people who purport to be their leaders. There should be no rewards for violence."

The miners leaders went to the TUC for talks last night. Leaders of the striking miners last night confirmed their defiance of the High Court as they went into a fourth day of peace talks.

Mr Scargill ignored a court invitation to give reasons why he should not be fined £1,000 for contempt, and his union disinclined to enter an appearance on a similar £200,000 penalty.

The High Court fine orders were accordingly made yesterday by Mr Justice Nicholls shortly before the board and the union returned to the London offices of the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service.

Pound below \$1.21 as dollar surges

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Sterling fell 1.75 cents to a record closing low of \$1.2085 yesterday as the dollar surged against all leading currencies, in spite of a cut in interest rates by some US banks.

The sterling index fell 0.7 points on the day to close at 75.9, the lowest average for sterling since October 1976. In addition to the dollar's rise, dealers blamed uncertainties over the miners' strike, expectations of an early cut in base rates, and fears of oil market weakness.

The dollar rose more than four pence against the Deutsche mark to DM3.1460, with statistics showing the continuing strength of the US economy cited as the main reason. Business inventories rose 0.8 per cent in August, it was announced yesterday.

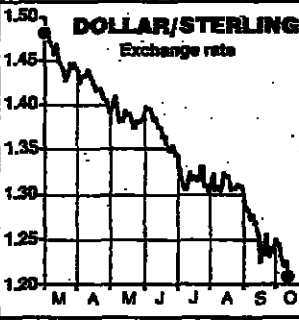
On Friday, official figures showed a 1.6 per cent rise in retail sales and a 0.2 per cent fall in producer prices in September.

The dollar remained strong in spite of a cut in the prime rate charged by Bankers Trust from 12 1/2 per cent to 12 per cent.

In contrast to the dollar, sterling was unaffected by official figures showing that retail sales remain buoyant. Retail sales rose to a new record level in September, the volume index rising 3.1 per cent on the month to 114.3 (1980=100). The previous record, 112.2, was reached in April.

The volume of retail sales in the July-September period was up 0.5 per cent on the previous three months. Retailers report that sales have continued strong in October, and expectations are for a record Christmas.

Industrial production fell 0.2 per cent in August and, in the June-August period was 1 1/2 per cent down on the previous three months and 1 per cent down on a year earlier. However, the cost



Norwegian oil price cut threatens Opec truce

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Britain's dollar earnings from the sale of North Sea oil and the fragile truce on prices between the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) and other oil producers has been threatened by Norway's decision yesterday to cut its official oil price.

Norway is a comparatively small oil producer with a daily output of less than 700,000 barrels compared with more than two million from Britain

and 18 million by Opec. It has cut its official price for oil bought on a one-month contract from \$30.10 to just below the Opec price of \$29.

The Norwegian state oil company hopes to reduce the gap between official prices and those now being quoted on the Rotterdam spot-market. Spot prices have been almost \$3 below official prices.

Details, page 25

New generation of crops could cut food surplus

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Within the next few years British farmers could be growing a whole new range of potentially valuable and unfamiliar crops, which would both improve their incomes and help to reduce surpluses of traditional crops such as wheat and barley.

A special demonstration of alternative crops will be staged at the National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh, next June. Far from being a "fringe" event, it is being organized by the British Agricultural Society of England, the Government's Agricultural Development and Advisory Service and the

magazine, *Farmer's Weekly*, and is being sponsored by Savills, the land agents.

Some of these alternatives are standard grain and forage crops, which are widely cultivated in other temperate countries but which, for some reason, are either in decline or have yet to make much of an impact in Britain.

They include rye, an exceptionally hardy grain which can be grown in very cold climates and is used, among other things, for making black bread and Canadian whisky; triticale, a hybrid of wheat and rye, also noted for its hardiness and disease resistance; durum wheat, the principal ingredient

of pasta; ryegrass; winter beans; combine-peas; linseed and lupins.

The huge expansion in the acreage of oilseed rape has been one of the phenomena of the past few years. But there are also unexploited possibilities in grain maize and in soya, for which there is a booming demand, and crop experts would like to see the decline in oats cultivation reversed.

There are other more exotic crops which are as yet scarcely beyond the experimental stage. For example borago, first used by the Ancient Greeks and still used in some countries as a vegetable or salad ingredient,

contains a relatively high concentration of gamma linolenic acid (GLA), used in treating multiple sclerosis and alcohol withdrawal symptoms.

The same applies to evening primrose, a North American import with plants between three and five feet high; it is, however, a difficult crop since it needs to be planted in July.

Blue poppies have been grown in parts of the Continent to produce morphine for pharmaceutical use. But in the light of the present drug abuse epidemic, it is questionable whether the Government would allow their large-scale cultivation in this country.

Briton wins Nobel prize for medicine

By Nicholas Timmins

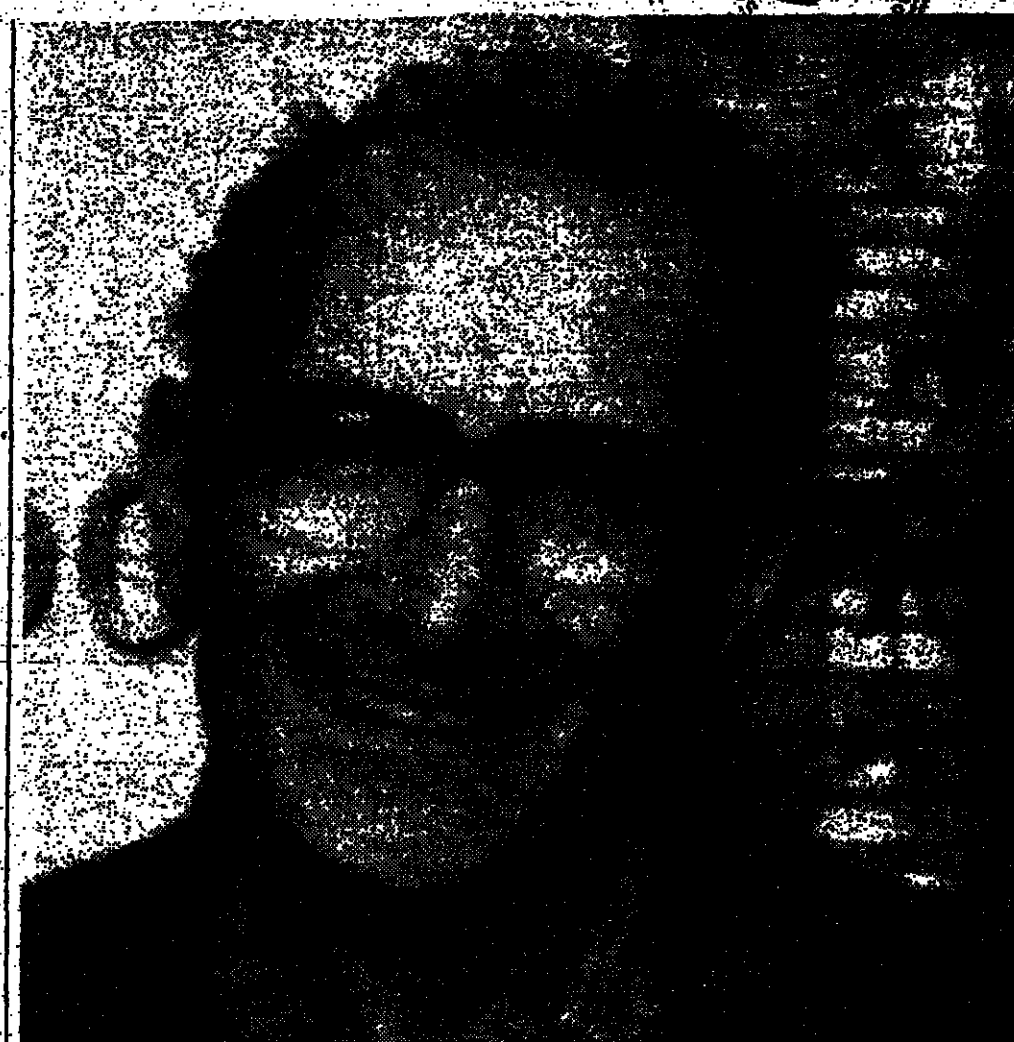
The Nobel Prize for Medicine was won yesterday by Dr Cesar Milstein of the Medical Research Council's laboratory of molecular biology, for work that is revolutionizing research and diagnosis in a range of diseases, including cancer. The laboratory is in Cambridge.

Dr Milstein, aged 57, shared the £150,000 prize with Professor Niels Jerne, aged 73, a London-born Dane, who has been called the father of modern immunology, and Dr Georges Kohler, aged 38, of West Germany, whose work with Dr Milstein led to the discovery of monoclonal antibodies.

Dr Milstein, an Argentine-born British citizen, whose Nobel prize is the seventh won by scientists at the MRC's laboratory of molecular biology over the past 26 years, said yesterday he was "overwhelmed and honoured" by the award. "I am still planning myself to make sure I am not dreaming."

He won the award for work in 1975 with Dr Kohler at Cambridge, which established that antibodies, which are highly purified antibodies

Continued on back page, col 6



Dr Cesar Milstein, of Cambridge University, who has won the Nobel Prize for Medicine

Police seek fleeing motorcyclist

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Detectives investigating the Brighton bombing issued a description yesterday of a motorcyclist seen fleeing from the rear of the Grand Hotel at the time of the explosion.

The police still believe that the 20lb bomb was left for some time behind bathroom panelling on the sixth floor. The motorcyclist may have been panicked by a bystander or an observer for the bombers.

Scientists in London started yesterday to examine several pieces of debris from the hotel which had been identified as possible remnants of the bomb.

The police have now established that the explosive was a commercial mixture known as Fraxel which is made in the Irish Republic, and has often been used by the Provisional IRA.

Det Chief Sup Jack Reece, head of Sussex CID and commander of 100 officers investigating the bombing said the male motorcyclist was dressed in a donkey jacket, white crash helmet and a few minutes after the explosion rode off on a motorcycle thought to be between 50 and 100cc. He said the man was seen on the top floor of a multi-storey car park behind the hotel watching it.

The motorcyclist rode through side streets away from the hotel and at one point mounted the pavement before speeding down a narrow alleyway and disappearing into the maze of streets near the Brighton seafront.

Mr Reece said it was extremely doubtful whether the bomb was placed on the night of the explosion, confirming the view put forward several days ago. Although he did not confirm it, it is now thought the bomb was placed close to the bathroom of room 628 where Mrs Jean Shattock died.

Twenty men from Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad are working in and around the Grand Hotel recovering debris and marking it for examination. They worked previously on the Harrow bombing last year and the 1982 bombings in Hyde Park and Regent's Park.

A number of the men were working yesterday on the sixth floor with safety ropes attached. At times they had to evacuate the hotel because of part of the structure is not safe and fears of asbestos dust.

The police are understood to be examining records for everyone who has stayed in the hotel in the past 90 days and they are making use of a computer which can be linked to the computer used by the anti-terrorist squad at the Yard.

Thatcher describes 'the day she was meant not to see'

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

The Prime Minister said yesterday that terrorist must not be allowed to separate political leaders from ordinary people nor isolate Government from the governed. Democracy would not be able to continue, and that was what the men of violence wanted.

"The fact is that we do live in a certain amount of danger, and if you are to carry out your job we shall continue to live in danger," she said.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, who was being interviewed for the first time since the immediate aftermath of the Brighton bombing, said she expected that there would be a demand for another parliamentary debate on the death penalty, for which she herself had always voted.

She described vividly her emotions during last Sunday morning's service in the parish church at Ellersborough, near Chichester.

Mrs Thatcher was asked by her interviewer, Gill Mevill, on Channel 4, what had been the worst thing during last weekend. She had already explained that, at the moment of the explosion in the Grand Hotel early on Friday, "you are not shaken, you are calm. It is when it is all over that you really begin to realize the enormity of what happened."

She continued: "In church, on Sunday morning, it was a lovely morning - we have not

had many lovely days - and the sun was just coming through the stained glass windows, and falling on some flowers, right across the church, and it just occurred to me that this was the day I was meant not to see."

"Then all of a sudden, I thought, there are some of my dearest friends who are not

Gummer tribute Irish 'sleepers' 2

There were times when it would be difficult to carry on without a religious faith. She was very grateful she had been brought up in that way.

Mrs Thatcher said she believed in the death penalty because people who go out prepared to take the lives of other people forfeit their own right to live. "It should be used very rarely, but no one should go on, certain that no matter how cruel, how vicious, how hideous their murder they themselves will not suffer the death penalty."

But that was a personal view. There had never been a party political view, and it had always been held that MPs should have a free vote.

Mrs Thatcher was cautious in answering a viewer's question on whether she would approve new initiatives at the meeting with the Irish Prime Minister in Dublin next month to stop the feeling of alienation felt by many Roman Catholics in Northern Ireland.

Mrs Thatcher: "People want orderly freedom or

Victims of blast 'little change'

Last night's bulletins on the seven injured victims of the bomb explosion at the Grand Hotel, Brighton, on Friday, showed little change in their conditions, as they remained under armed police guard at the Royal Sussex County Hospital.

Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, who has broken ribs and leg injuries, had his wounds re-dressed yesterday, and was taken in a wheelchair to visit his wife, Margaret, who remains paralyzed below the neck. She was said to be "keeping in good spirits". It could be a week before doctors treating her know whether she is paralyzed for life.

Mrs Frances Day, who has back and facial injuries, was reported to have started walking. Mr and Mrs. Donald McLean were described as "unchanged". Mr John Wakeham, MP, the Government Chief Whip, "unchanged and stable", and Mrs Mabel Delamott also remained stable.

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From Stewart Tandler, Crime Reporter, Brighton

He said it did not matter what Mrs Thatcher's political beliefs were she had acted with great courage and "the whole country as I do must feel admiration for her". Mr Grace said he made his remarks purely on humanitarian grounds.

the hotel and staggered, naked and covered in blood, to an ambulance.

He was asked: "Where the bloody hell have you come from?" He replied: "By express lift from the sixth floor."

■ Buckingham Palace replied yesterday as to why the Queen had waited until Sunday to telephone Mrs. Thatcher about Friday morning's bomb in Brighton. A spokesman said that the private offices of the Queen and the Prime Minister had been in close and regular

Koran leaf with 15 lines of kufic script written in gold on blue vellum secured £28,600 (estimate £15,000 to £20,000).

The French have been the dominant partners on the route for many years. They own two of the three ships operating and have a two-thirds share in the third, the British-crewed Senlac.

The Dover to Ostend route is to be expanded, with the addition of the ferry St. David from Holyhead.

authorities spending less on fuel than mean improving other services, or maintaining existing services where funds would otherwise be short. And for the businessmen improved energy efficiency offers a guaranteed turn in lower energy costs."

The National Union of Journalists chapel (office branch) at the group's offices in Portsmouth is to discuss the agreement on Thursday.

The national executive of the journalists' union is expected to register strong reservations about the move on Friday.

Some local politicians fear that the Yorkshire miners could actually seek to bankrupt the authority by sending back a few men at each pit, destroying the possibility of the police to maintain public order in pit villages.

It is understood that several hundred miners have signed similar forms at Lea Hall colliery, Rugeley, and Mr Hackett said he had received reports that many hundreds of men in other coalfields were doing the same.

He said he believed there would be no shortage of qualified people eager to take on the role of general secretary, despite its low salary, because many committed people had accepted their salaries to work for the CND.

the presence of asbestos in the Fleet Street foundry, which stopped publication of last week's *Sunday Telegraph*, is partly to do with disquiet over plans for new technology. The prospect is for more conflict to

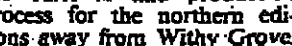
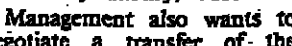
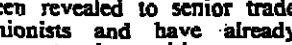
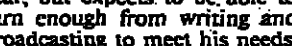
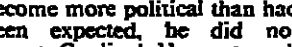
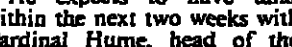
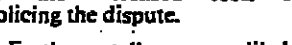
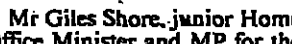
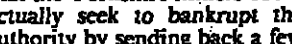
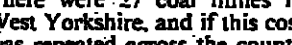
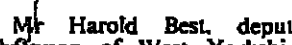
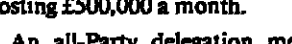
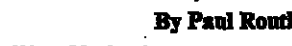
Although the newspaper has suffered continual disruption since a 10-week strike last year, the management are pressing ahead with plans to expand the paper and broaden its revenue-earning base. Suggestions that the business has sailed into difficult waters, or may be up for sale, are

The newspaper does not use the latest available technology and as a result news from London must arrive by 8.30 pm to allow printing to start at 10.30 pm.

By contrast the *Wall Street Journal*, which launched a separate European edition 20 months ago, uses the most advanced computerized com-

The benefits, he said, remained unproven, judging by the experience of the rest of

The Times overseas selling prices
Austria Sch 29; Belgium B fr 80; Canada \$2.75; Denmark Dkr 1.70; Cyprus 700 mps; Denmark Dkr 8.50; Finland Mk 8.00; France Fr 100; Germany DM 3.40; Greece Dr 100; Holland G 3.40; Irish Republic 40p; Italy L 2200; Luxembourg Lf 38; Madeira Esc 128; Morocco Dir 8.00; Norway Kr 8.50; Pakistan Rup 18; Portugal



Austin leads sales as Ford share plunges despite £1,500 discount

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

The generous discounting by Ford to defend its share of the British car market has backfired. Poor sales month have sent its market share plunging from 28 per cent in September to only 17 per cent and it has been overtaken by Austin Rover.

Ford executives gathered in Birmingham last night for this week's British Motor Show were depressed by the news, which delighted their competitors.

They insisted that Ford's troubles were due entirely to its surprise intervention last month with offers of discount bonuses of up to £1,500 a car to dealers who registered their cars before the end of September.

As a result, 12,000 unsold Fords were registered in the last three days of the month. So many dealers wanted to take part in the remarkable bonanza that the registration system was swamped and 2,000 cars had to be held over for October registration.

Industry sources believe there are 20,000 unsold cars in Ford showrooms which will have to be disposed of at bargain prices to clear the way for 1985 models arriving during the next few weeks.

Austin Rover chiefs were overjoyed with their latest sales. In the first 10 days of October they increased their

share from 19 to 29 per cent, their highest for a long time.

Bonus support of up to £500 a time pushed Metro and Maestro into first and second place in the best sellers' chart, with Montego climbing steadily to fifth.

Aston Martin yesterday unveiled a sleek limousine which it hopes will be the star of the motor show. At £100,000 before tax, it is also a contender for the title of "the most expensive car in the world".

A 5.3 litre Aston Martin Lagonda costing £66,000 has been "customized" by its specialist car subsidiary, Aston Martin Tickford, and is 10 in longer and 2 in higher. It is coach-finished in black with a matching vinyl roof and gold coach lining.

Interior luxuries include grey leather upholstery with red piping, grey Wilton carpet, grey wool headlining, television, video and stereo, picnic tables, cocktail cabinet, and rear curtains.

At the other end of the price range, Austin Rover announced an extensively restyled range of Metros, including the first five-door version.

Leading article, page 17

Code set for Random breath tests urged for drivers

By our Motoring Correspondent

A new code of practice that lays down standards for the sale of new and second hand motor cycles was announced yesterday by the Office of Fair Trading. It is also setting up a conciliation and arbitration scheme to deal with customers' complaints.

According to Sir Gordon Borrie, Director-General of Fair Trading, the office has been receiving about 4,000 complaints a year.

The code has been drawn up with the agreement of the Motor Agents' Association, Motorcycle Association, Motorcycle Retailers' Association, and the Scottish Motor Trades Association.

Police officers should be empowered to carry out random breath tests as a prelude to a new campaign against drunken driving, a road safety conference was urged in Bristol yesterday.

Mr Mike Read, director of road safety at the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) said: "It is important that the police for drinking and driving should be a real one."

"If a criminal goes out with a gun in his pocket, the courts will presume he is likely to use it and pass sentence accordingly. Why then do we adopt a different attitude to the driver

who knows he has had several drinks and could therefore be equally lethal behind the wheel?"

He questioned the wisdom of cuts in police expenditure which always seemed to affect traffic divisions first when people were 15 times more likely to die in a road accident than as a result of violent crime.

RoSPA plans to launch its own anti-drink campaign next year along similar lines to one used last year in the Irish Republic which was said to have achieved a 30 per cent reduction in death and injuries. About a third of all road deaths in Britain are alcohol-related.

Solicitors' further conveyancing fear

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The legal profession may stand to lose more than a quarter of the commercial conveyancing market when its monopoly ends, according to a survey.

Solicitors appreciate that they are likely to lose some of the domestic conveyancing market, but the possible effect of the change in the law on the commercial sector has not been fully appreciated, it says.

The survey, based on a sample of directors and managers from nearly 60 commercial organizations in eight industries, shows that in the commercial sector there are "some very bitter and resentful attitudes towards the legal profession".

All respondents felt that legal fees are too high. But two thirds did not know the hourly fee their solicitor charged, and most had never "shopped around" for a solicitor.

The survey, commissioned by Samuels and Green, a London firm, also shows how ever that three out of four managers felt that their solicitor did a good job. But finding a "good" solicitor could take up to five years of "trial and error".

Most managers and directors felt that the legal profession could improve legal terminology, could become less remote from the man in the street, and could provide a better service.

BA brings heraldry to aircraft tail-fins

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

British Airways is to have a smart new tail in time for privatization. From the end of this year, the fin on its aircraft will feature a royal-looking standard with a flying horse and a flying lion and the motto: to fly to serve.

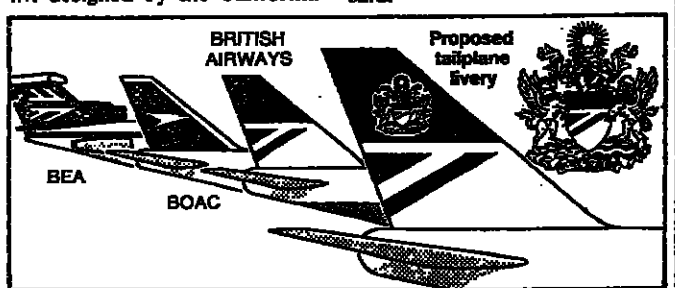
Designed by the College of Heraldry for the BOAC-BEA merger in the mid-1970s the standard has been a familiar sight on aircraft hats and inflight menus, but has not appeared on the aircraft.

The new tail emblem is part of a multi-million-pound facelift designed by the California-

based company, Landor International. Besides the heraldic tail, the fuselage will gradually acquire silver tops instead of white.

Inside the aircraft there will be a "total refurbishment designed to please passengers", British Airways said yesterday, and a new approach to inflight entertainment, featuring not only music but also quiz games.

The smarter aircraft and more comfortable flights will become increasingly apparent to passengers from the beginning of next year, British Airways said.



How the BA aircraft tail-fin design might look, and how it got there.

Skin-deep key to curing baldness

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The days of folk remedies and miracle potions to treat baldness are numbered. Those of us with receding hair not convinced by last year's minor best seller, bald is beautiful, should find comfort from a discovery reported in the latest issue of the scientific journal Nature.

The findings, by a team working at Dundee University, have demonstrated how the key to baldness and its cure lies in the family of cells called dermal papillae, which grow on the underlying stratum of the body's two layers of skin. Papillae have been grown in the laboratory from cells taken from hair follicles of both

animals and humans.

The laboratory grown ones have been injected into bald patches on animals, stimulating growth. The experiments are at an early stage, but Dr Roy Oliver, Dr Colin Jahoda and Mr Keith Horne, who have perfected the method, are working already on the methods that could lead to its application to baldness.

The idea would be to insert papillae, which Dr Oliver says could be grown in quantities easily, into follicles which remain on the skin of a bald pate.

Although the explanation for hair growth is that papillae combine with cells of the outer

skin to create both a follicle and to stimulate growth, the scientists are still unable to explain the mechanism by which the message is conveyed by a papilla instructing the epidermal (outer skin) cells to make hair.

Continuing work at Dundee is focusing on the reason for the biological differences between dermal papillae which stimulate hair growth and other papillae in the body which are part of the same type of general tissue. Taste buds are another example.

Dermal papillae have some unique properties which separate them from the rest of the group.

Prison fire

Fifteen prison officers and three prisoners were taken to hospital yesterday after a fire broke out at Colindale high-security prison, near Belsley in Surrey. The alert began shortly after 7.30am when smoke was seen coming from a cleaning store.

Rare newt safe

A colony of rare great crested newts has been saved from extinction because architects have redesigned a factory project so that their pond, near the parish church at Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, will be retained.



Mrs Frances Morrell, the ILEA leader, and Sharon Smith, aged 12, sampling school meals yesterday.

School food 'is too stodgy'

By Colin Hughes

School meals are too stodgy with fat and sugar and too little natural fibre, according to a survey of London schools published yesterday. The two-year survey, carried out for the Inner London Education Authority by Surrey University, shows that London's school meals are nutritionally 10 years out of date.

The authority immediately announced that it will bring

school meals into line with recent guidelines from the National Advisory Committee on Nutrition Education.

Despite the criticism, the report finds that school meals remain nutritionally more valuable than packed lunches or midday take-aways from the local chip shop, which are an increasingly common alternative for London pupils.

Trends towards cash canteens systems or meals-of-the-day options brought in more "fast foods" which were more popular. But they tended to increase sugar intakes, even though they provided a more nutritionally balanced meal if the children selected their food well.

The team also surveyed nearly 4,000 pupils at 36 schools, and found that of the 54 per cent who ate school meals, most were boys.

Mother, 32, killed by Pill, says coroner

A young West Midlands mother, Mrs Marilyn Eccleston, was killed by the contraceptive pill, a coroner said yesterday.

But Mr Aiden Cotter added that the question of whether she should have been prescribed the pill was not relevant to the inquest. He told relatives who tried to ask questions: "This is not a trial of a doctor."

Mr Cotter recorded a verdict of death through misadventure on Mrs Eccleston, aged 32, a mother of two, of West Bromwich Road, Walsall, who collapsed into her husband's arms before dying.

Dr Hamish Goldsmith, a Walsall pathologist, said that the cause of death was coronary thrombosis brought about by the pill. Mrs Eccleston had also been at risk because she smoked. Where a woman had been on the pill for some time, and smoked, it was normal to change to another method of contraception, he said.

"There are 6,000 adverse effects recorded about the pill, but in women under 35 fatal cases total just 1.3 in every 100,000, about the same as any other drug," Dr Goldsmith said.

Mrs Eccleston's husband, Geoff, said that his wife had smoked only about 10 cigarettes a day, and sometimes did not smoke at all.

Dr Amy Manocha, the family doctor, said that Mrs Eccleston had been on the pill since 1973.

Ministers may drop governor scheme

By Colin Hughes

Education ministers are being advised to shelve plans to give parents a majority on school governing bodies.

The proposals, put forward in a Green Paper, *Parental Influence in Schools*, earlier this year, have been attacked by all the teacher and parent associations, local education authority leaders, and questioned by consumer organizations.

Ministers are now being warned that the proposals would lead to small caucuses of parents with special or political interests dominating governing bodies rather than, as the Government had hoped, parents becoming a driving force in the education system for improved standards and greater selectivity.

Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education and Science, is said to be "sitting on the fence" while he sifts the pile of responses to the Green Paper, which have now all arrived at his department.

He is expected, however, to make a statement at the end of next month effectively putting off the proposals while changes in governing bodies initiated in four years ago by the 1980 Education Act take full effect.

It remains possible that he will carry through the paper's other proposals to increase the powers and role of governing bodies in general, giving them more say in appointing teachers, approving the curriculum, and deciding disciplinary policy in line with local authority policies.

Judge bans reporting

A judge yesterday banned all reporting of a trial at Lancaster Crown Court, involving 19 defendants on charges including armed robbery, conspiracy, firearms offences, and perjury.

Judge Morris Jones, QC, made an order under section 4 (1) of the Contempt of Court Act, 1981, after an application

from three defence barristers. He told the press: "I make an order that the publication of any report of any part of these proceedings be postponed until a further order."

The 19 men, who face more than 50 charges, sat in the dock as the order was read out.

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Bradford headmaster told he should retain job but must repair race relations

By Colin Hughes

Bradford's education officers are advising that Mr Ray Honeyford, the headmaster involved in an argument over multi-ethnic education at his school, should be allowed to stay in his job, but must repair race relations with the local community.

They expect, however, that there will be calls for Mr Honeyford to be dismissed or urged to resign by governors at Drummond Middle School, and similar calls from local councillors.

Mr Honeyford wrote an article in *The Salisbury Review*, a right-wing monthly magazine, questioning aspects of the city's multi-ethnic education policy. Of Drummond school's 523 pupils more than 80 per cent are of Asian descent and mostly Muslim.

A report on the school by the city's education advisers published yesterday includes 40 recommendations on improving education and relations with parents. It will be discussed by governors tonight and by councillors on Monday.

The education advisers found no evidence, however, to support Mr Honeyford's view that the education of the white minority was suffering. The advisers spent two weeks at the

school assessing education as well as talking to parents in July this year.

Mr John Lambert, Labour education spokesman on the city council, said the report should "finally bring it home to the governors so far opposed to his removal that he is not suitable for the job. The whole question of Mr Honeyford's position is essentially a test of the council's commitment to its race relations policy in multi-racial schools."

The advisers say that in future Mr Honeyford should ensure that the school adheres to the spirit, and not only to the letter, of that policy.

Mr Richard Knight, the education director, said yesterday: "In my view the most important issue raised by the report is the need for fundamental and urgent attention to relationships between the school and the community, particularly parents."

In practice the governors have no powers to use the report to seek Mr Honeyford's removal, and they appear to be divided on whether to seek a special meeting to consider his position.

Privately, politicians and officials are hoping that the

extensive improvements called for in the report will incline Mr Honeyford to resign voluntarily. Mr Honeyford left a statement at the school yesterday saying he was unavailable.

Mr Honeyford's criticism that Asian parents were able to take their children out of school for prolonged visits to their country of origin found no support among the advisers. They said that of 20 pupils absent this year "in most cases it was not felt there were great difficulties on their return. None were referred for remedial help."

The advisers recommend that Mr Honeyford should consider ways of enabling pupils who have been absent for long periods to make up for lost work, take work with them and allow parents to discuss long holiday plans with him.

The advisers added that there was evidence of considerable and growing disquiet among parents. "The situation must raise serious questions as to whether it would be possible for the school to function effectively unless the head teacher is able to regain the trust and confidence of a significant proportion of parents."

Getty fund to benefit British museums

By Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent

The J. Paul Getty Trust, paymasters of the famous Getty Museum in Malibu, California, have decided on a method of spending its vast wealth which could benefit Britain.

The grant programme, announced by the Trust at the weekend, could make millions of dollars available to British scholars, publishers, and museums if they play their cards right. In announcing that it was to make grants in the fields of art history, conservation, and education, the trust emphasised that those grants were available internationally.

The trust is required under Californian law to spend 4.25 per cent of the market value of its endowment every year, or about \$90m (£72m), to retain its charitable tax status.

That must be spent on the museum and other "operating programmes". The trust says, that it has the "legal flexibility" to spend a fraction of one per cent on grants, in other words a fraction of about £16m a year.

The trust has published a booklet describing the areas in which it intends to make grants. Getty fellowships in the history of art and the humanities are to be available to scholars who have received their doctorates within the past six years.

Any institutions furthering the study of art history qualify for grants to help run their libraries or archives, including the purchase of books.

Museums qualify for grants towards the preparation of scholarly catalogues of their collections, the conservation of art works, and programmes explaining the collection to the public.

There is also money available for publication, though applications are limited each year to two a museum and three a publisher. The money is available to subsidise projects already accepted for publication.

Booklet from J. Paul Getty Trust, 1875 Century Park East, Suite 2300, Los Angeles, California 90067.



Unseen hazards: Mr Brian Johnston, the cricket commentator (right), donning a blindfold and (above) with a white cane tackling an obstacle course with cars parked on the pavement, overhanging bushes, rubbish bags, and dog dirt in London yesterday. He was demonstrating the hazards faced daily by the blind, to mark the International White Cane Day (Photographs: Murray Job).



Meeting on Star future attacked

By Robin Young

The *Morning Star* yesterday renewed its warning to shareholders in the cooperative which owns the newspaper, the Peoples Press Printing Society, that there would be no point in their attending special meetings of the membership requisitioned by the Communist Party.

The front page of yesterday's issue carried a notice reaffirming the view of the society's management committee that the requisition for a special general meeting received from the Communist Party was out of order, and declared that any decisions taken at such meetings would be invalid.

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Low-spending Tory councils complain of broken promises

By Hugh Chayton, Local Government Correspondent

Conservative council leaders from the shires complained to the Government yesterday that it had failed to meet promises to its supporters who run low-spending authorities.

Leaders of the Association of County Councils said that the Government was treating some of its urban opponents more favourably than its friends in the shires.

Neither side would talk about the meeting afterwards, and several of the council leaders left immediately for a conference in Strasbourg. But the presence of four ministers at the meeting shows the Government's sensitivity to criticism from its own party.

The ministers were Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister of Local Government, and Mr William Waldegrave and Lord Avon, Parliamentary Under-Secretaries at the department.

The complaint from the shires centred on the allocation of next year's spending targets, the limits above which councils cannot go without incurring government penalties.

Some Conservative councils,

such as Essex, had complained earlier that the shire mechanism penalized them after ministers had congratulated them for their efficiency and prudent spending.

The Government promised a new system for next year which would give more leeway to the shires while imposing tighter curbs through rate-capping on the highest Labour spenders in the cities.

The Government's difficulty is that its own mechanism bases the annual target on spending levels in previous years. So a high spender, even if considered profligate by ministers, can still attract a high target. The result for next year will be that some Labour-led London boroughs, considered extravagant by ministers have been awarded target increases bigger than those awarded to low-spending Conservative counties.

Government spending limits

	Target 1984-85	1983-84	%
Conservative shires	£195m	£200m	97.5
Labour shires	£227m	£230m	98.7
Conservative London	£108m	£110m	98.2
Labour London	£101m	£105m	96.2

Editors set up group for all media

By Patricia Clough

An Association of British Editors, representing the whole range of British media, radio, television, newspapers, and magazines, is expected to be launched before the end of the year.

In a circular to numerous colleagues its founders declare there is an "urgent need" for an organization that can speak with authority and independence for all media on matters affecting press freedom.

"Serious inroads have been made in recent years into press and public freedom... further assaults lie in wait," it says, referring to campaigns for a "right of reply" law and for further restrictions on reporting of court cases.

At present no single organization actively represents the entire British media; the Guild of British Newspaper Editors represents almost entirely provincial newspaper editors.

The founders have set up an ad hoc board which would be superseded by an elected one after the official launching. The chairman is Mr David Flynn, deputy executive editor of *The Times*, the secretary is Mr Nicholas Herbert, editorial director of the Westminster Press, and the treasurer is Mr James Bishop, editor of the *Illustrated News*. Mr Alan Protheroe, assistant director general of the BBC, is another of its members.

The association will also seek to set standards of professional conduct, maintain the dignity and rights of the media, and solve common problems, the board says.

Membership would not be restricted to editors; senior colleagues who deputize for their editors are eligible. Not more than four memberships may be held by each of the national daily newspapers, national radio or television organizations and fewer by smaller organizations.

Businesses 'could cut work week'

By Glen Allan

The working week can be cut by at least an hour a little or no cost to businesses, the Industrial Society said yesterday.

The key to the cut, the society says, lies in the willingness of unions to give up peripheral agreements which increase earnings but do not contribute to company efficiency.

A society researcher, Miss Sherri Kendall, who asked more than 100 companies employing a total of a million workers, how best the reduced working week could be achieved, said yesterday: "If unions wish to co-operate there are many practices which they could trade off to achieve a cut in working hours."

"For example, there are a lot of inefficient practices which unions could easily concede, like the rule that if one worker is in working overtime, then all others benefit from overtime payments. This sort of thing could be negotiated out while shorter working hours could be negotiated in."

But the TUC and the Confederation of British Industry last night scorned the proposals. The TUC said: "Our policy is to secure a 35 hour working week with no loss of living standards. It is, of course, up to unions to negotiate individually, but I do not think the Industrial Society's proposal would prove attractive."

The Confederation said: "We are, at least 25 per cent less competitive than our major foreign rivals and against that background, there is no way our members could concede a shorter working week, even with fringe concessions by unions."

Libyan student on bomb charge

Salhen Ramadan Salem, aged 28, a Libyan student, was remanded in custody until Thursday when he appeared before Lambeth magistrates in south London yesterday accused of plotting "bomb attacks in London. A police helicopter hovered overhead during the hearing."

Mr Salem, of Penarth Road, Cardiff, South Glamorgan, was charged with conspiring with others to cause explosions with substances likely to endanger life on or before March 9, contrary to the Explosive Substances Act.

Man accused of £1.6m gems raid

A London car dealer accused of stealing jewelry worth £1.6m from Knightsbridge, central London, earlier this month, was remanded in custody until October 22 by Horseferry Road magistrates yesterday.

Gerald Kent, aged 40, of Bedford Hill, Streatham, south-east London, is charged with the robbery of a diamond necklace, a diamond bracelet, and two diamond rings on October 1. He was also charged with conspiring with others unknown to rob, Graff's.

Queen Mary would not have liked that much, either.

Barth's Royal Palace of Europe, by Hugh Montgomery-Massingberd, (Quaker's Peering, £12.95).

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£2,000 grant for 'new Torvill and Dean'

A £2,000 grant to help with travel and training costs has been given by Cleveland County Council to Neil and Lise Cusley, young ice skaters who are preparing for the British championship next month.

The brother and sister combination are tipped for the top in their sport and the council sees them as the new Torvill and Dean.

Mr Bill Emerson, chairman of the leisure services committee, presented Neil, aged 17, and Lise, aged 15 (left), with the cheque at Billingham ice rink where they train for up to five and a half hours a day. We look on it as an investment.

In 1982 Neil and Lise represented Britain in the World Junior Pairs Skating championships in Sarajevo, and last year came ninth in the same event in Japan.

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Infamous name nearly changed a royal residence

By Alan Hamilton

Queen Mary, consort of King George V and grandmother of the Queen, would have made Kensington Palace the Royal Family seat rather than Buckingham Palace if she had had her way, it is claimed in a book published yesterday.

The reason is bizarre, but entirely in character with the severe and ramrod-straight queen, a woman of the strictest moral principles. The name Buckingham stirred in her mind associations of rampant homosexuality, reminding her of George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, for whom King James I had an infatuation and whose proclivities are suggested in school textbooks by

describing him as "court favourite".

The story is alluded to in a book on royal palaces of Europe by Hugh Montgomery-Massingberd, and was expanded upon yesterday by Mr Harold Brooks-Baker, publishing director of *Burke's Peerage*.

"The bonours the king showered on his favourite boy friend made him the richest and most arrogant man in Britain; his arrogance was much to blame for the rebellion against Charles I", Mr Brooks-Baker said.

"But in fact Queen Mary had nothing to worry about. The land was originally King James's silk farm where he

grew mulberry trees, and it was a quite different Buckingham who built the first house a century later. The Villiers line died out with the second duke, an adulterer and murderer, wilder and wicked than his father. The title was revived by Queen Anne for John Sheffield, who built the first house."

Nevertheless the name was enough for Queen Mary. She almost persuaded King George V to move to Kensington Palace, which had been her own childhood home, but she ultimately failed.

Many monarchs, Mr Montgomery-Massingberd relates, have detested Buckingham

Palace, the present occupant is known much to prefer her weekends at Windsor Castle.

King George IV rebuilt the palace and Queen Victoria was the first monarch to live in it, but after the death of Prince Albert she, too, detested it. During her absence one tenant was the Shah of Persia, who is reputed to have ignored the lavatories, and to have had one of his staff executed with a bow string and buried in the garden.

Queen Mary would not have liked that much, either.

Barth's Royal Palace of Europe, by Hugh Montgomery-Massingberd, (Quaker's Peering, £12.95).

Assad visits Moscow to help reinforce Soviet influence in Middle East

From Richard Owen, Moscow

President Assad of Syria, Moscow's closest ally in the Middle East, arrived in Russia yesterday for consultations on the present Soviet campaign to establish a firmer foothold in the Arab world and prevent any extension of the Camp David peace process.

President Assad was met at the airport by both Mr Tikhonov and Mr Gromyko - a sign of the visit's importance - and drove to the Kremlin to meet President Chernenko.

Officially this is President Assad's first visit to Moscow for several years, although he is reported by some Arab sources to have held secret talks with both President Andropov, Syria and the Soviet Union are linked by a friendship treaty signed four years ago, and there are about 5,000 Soviet advisers in Syria, some of them helping to man sophisticated Soviet weaponry.

Pravda yesterday said Mr Assad had "repeatedly" visited Russia, but only mentioned his October, 1980, trip to sign the treaty. It praised him for "firmly countering Israel's aggression, which is supported by the United States, and for frustrating separate deals which are being imposed on the Arabs."

Moscow and Damascus were alarmed by what they saw as an extension of American and Israeli influence in Lebanon after the Israeli invasion of 1982, but have since sought to capitalize on American discomfiture. Mr Chernenko is promoting the proposal for an international conference on the Palestinian issue put forward by his predecessors.

Last week Mr Chernenko signed a friendship treaty with President Ali Abdullah Saleh of North Yemen, only days after a visit to Moscow by Ali Nasser

Muhammad, the leader of South Yemen. The Kremlin is also wooing the conservative oil states, including Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, and in July restored diplomatic relations with Egypt.

Mr Chernenko said last week that Moscow had noted no change in the Israeli position since Mr Shimon Peres came to power as Prime Minister. The Russians are none the less worried that, since his talks in Washington, Mr Peres might take a moderate and flexible line on the West Bank and the Palestinian question.

Coming at a time when Jordan has restored ties with Cairo, effectively ending Egypt's isolation in the Arab world, this would arouse the spectre of a revived Camp David process, and Moscow watched President Mubarak's talks in Amman with considerable misgivings. Damascus has vociferously condemned the talks.

There have been conflicts between Moscow and Damascus arising from Russia's cautious policy of supporting the radical Arab cause rhetorically while bending over backwards to avoid a direct clash with the United States. In 1982, Moscow conspicuously failed to help Syria when its defences wilted under an Israeli onslaught.

Clampdown on Awali line

Sidon (Reuters) - Israeli forces occupying south Lebanon introduced a new security measures yesterday at a crossing on the Awali river defence line after a spate of guerrilla attacks.

Travellers crossing the Awali river bridge, about three

miles north of the southern port of Sidon and used mainly by Lebanese from Christian areas, now need permits in advance to cross in either direction.

Permits valid for three months will be issued at the Israeli command headquarters at Kfar Falous, six miles east of Sidon.

Saudi arms door opens to Brazil

Rio de Janeiro (NYT) - Brazil has concluded a major military cooperation agreement with Saudi Arabia that should result in increased Brazilian arms sales to the Middle East.

Already the world's sixth largest arms exporter, Brazil has sold military equipment in recent years to Iraq, Libya, Egypt, Kuwait, Tunisia and Sudan, but until now had not penetrated the lucrative Saudi market.

The five-year agreement, signed in Ramtla last week by Senhor Ramtla Saraiva Guerreiro, Brazil's Foreign Minister, and Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz, the Saudi Defence Minister, refers only in general terms to military-industrial cooperation.

But Brazilian officials anticipate joint ventures being formed in Saudi Arabia to manufacture Brazilian military equipment - starting with the Astro 2 rocket and the T27 Tucano training aircraft - for sale to the Saudi Government and for export elsewhere in the region.

Brazil sports armaments to more than 30 countries, with sales in 1983 estimated at \$1bn (£803m). The Middle East has become its fastest growing market, with Iraq emerging at its single largest client since the outbreak of the Gulf War.

Brazil has strongly denied reports that it is also selling weapons to Iran, but some Brazilian-made Caspian armoured vehicles are being used by the Iranian Army. Officials here said they were either captured from Iraq or bought from their original buyer.

Heseltine will seek aircraft deal in Jordan

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

A possible British aircraft deal with Jordan will be on the agenda when Mr Michael Heseltine, the Defence Secretary, flies to Amman on Friday for talks with King Hussein and his ministers.

But British Aerospace will be up against French and Soviet competition after the United States, under pressure from Israel, refused to supply Jordan with Stinger anti-aircraft missiles.

Mr Heseltine, who arrives hot on the heels of M Charles Heru, the French Defence Minister, will spend several days in Jordan before going on to Egypt, where the Ministry of Defence would like to sell new British equipment.

Observers say that no deals are likely to be clinched as a direct result of the visits to either country. But the size of the potential market is judged by the fact that Mr Heseltine himself is making the trip.

Censorship row stops Bangladesh presses

Dhaka (Reuters) - The Bangladesh capital had no newspapers yesterday after journalists and editors stopped work because they feared the military Government was trying to restrict reports of opposition activities.

Journalists said Government officials asked them by telephone to avoid reporting yesterday's anti-government demonstrations in Dhaka, or to make extensive cuts in their reports.

Leaders of journalists' unions and some editors immediately called a meeting and decided to stop work for the rest of Sunday

Baseball fans riot in Detroit

Detroit (AP) - Thousands of baseball fans poured into the city centre after the Detroit Tigers beat the San Diego Padres 8-4 to take the World Series, and their victory celebrations left dozens injured, at least 34 arrested and streets littered with debris and burnt-out cars.

One man was shot to death, in the general violence four policemen hurt, and a police car burnt. An overturned taxi was destroyed when a man tossed a match into the petrol tank. The crowd then threw a motorcycle into the blaze.

The rowdy scenes forced police to close a park and a leisure complex and block freeways leading to the city centre. Match report, page 31

Marxists claim Brussels bomb

Brussels (Reuters) - An underground Marxist group calling itself the "Fighting Communist Cells" claimed responsibility for the fourth bombing in Brussels this month after an explosion wrecked a study centre run by the Liberal Party of the Justice Minister, Mr Jean Gol.

The previous attacks were aimed at subsidiaries of US and West German firms said to supply equipment for Nato's cruise and Pershing 2 missiles.

Lisbon blasts

Lisbon (AFP, AP) - The French Embassy was studying possible new security measures after five bomb attacks yesterday on French targets in the Portuguese capital, two of which resulted in minor damage. Three devices were defused. An extreme-left group claimed one bomb as an act of solidarity with the Basques.

Squatter clash

Nairobi (AFP) - Two people died and a young boy was seriously injured when police tried to expel 200 squatters from a government farm in western Kenya. Witnesses said police opened fire and vehicles were set on fire.

200 surrender

Bangkok (AP) - About 200 muslim separatists surrendered yesterday to the supreme commander of armed forces. Radio Thailand reported. They had been seeking autonomy for four southern provinces - Pattani, Narathiwat, Yala and Satun.

Own medicine

Dar es Salaam (AFP) - A Tanzanian court has jailed a nurse for six months for abusing a patient after repeated appeals by the authorities for health workers to stop swearing at sick people.

as a protest. The union leaders were expected to meet further action.

At Sunday's rallies, the two main opposition alliances announced a campaign of non-cooperation to try to force President Ershad to end martial law and set up an interim government before parliamentary elections are held.

● FLOOD VICTIMS: Floods in Bangladesh have killed just over 700 people and destroyed 1.5 million tonnes of rice since May, official sources said yesterday (Reuters reports).



Welcome home: Mr Peres with his grandson Assaf after returning from America

Israeli inflation hits record 450%

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv

In yet another move to relieve economic pressure on Israel, the United States has offered to postpone settlement of debts totalling \$500m (£400m) until early next year. Mr Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, said yesterday.

As he briefed the Cabinet in

Jerusalem on his mission to the United States, Bureau of Statistics figures showed that inflation last month rose by a record 21.4 per cent.

The increase over a 12-month period was 450 per cent.

In his statement to the Cabinet, Mr Peres said the debt postponement was until after the Congress to be elected next month convenes. It was specu-

lated here the new legislature will be asked to seek a legal way to write off the debt.

The American gesture was something of an embarrassment to Israelis, who boasted that they had paid all their debts fully and on time. Officials said the Israelis had not requested the deferment and that it had been proposed by the Americans.

Pravda takes lid off party bosses' nights of sex and scandal

From Our Own Correspondent, Moscow

Pravda, normally an organ of strict sobriety and party orthodoxy, yesterday revealed that Russia has its own version of the Helen Smith affair, and upbraided police and party officials for their cover-up of a case involving sex and scandal.

The newspaper, described, with distinct disapproval, the goings-on at Flat 2, Number 29 Zvezdsky Street in Kursk, an important industrial city south of Moscow. The flat belonged to an unnamed young woman who allowed it to be used for what Pravda called a "debauch", a word which embraces not only debauchery but also drunkenness and rowdiness.

One such wild party ended tragically one evening when the girl fell from a third-floor balcony. She was taken to hospital with severe head injuries.

But what incensed Pravda even more was that the life and soul of the "debauch" was the deputy chief of police in Kursk, Aleksandr Ivanovich Koryniev. When the local police were called to the scene and realized that their boss was intimately involved they turned a blind eye, Pravda reported.

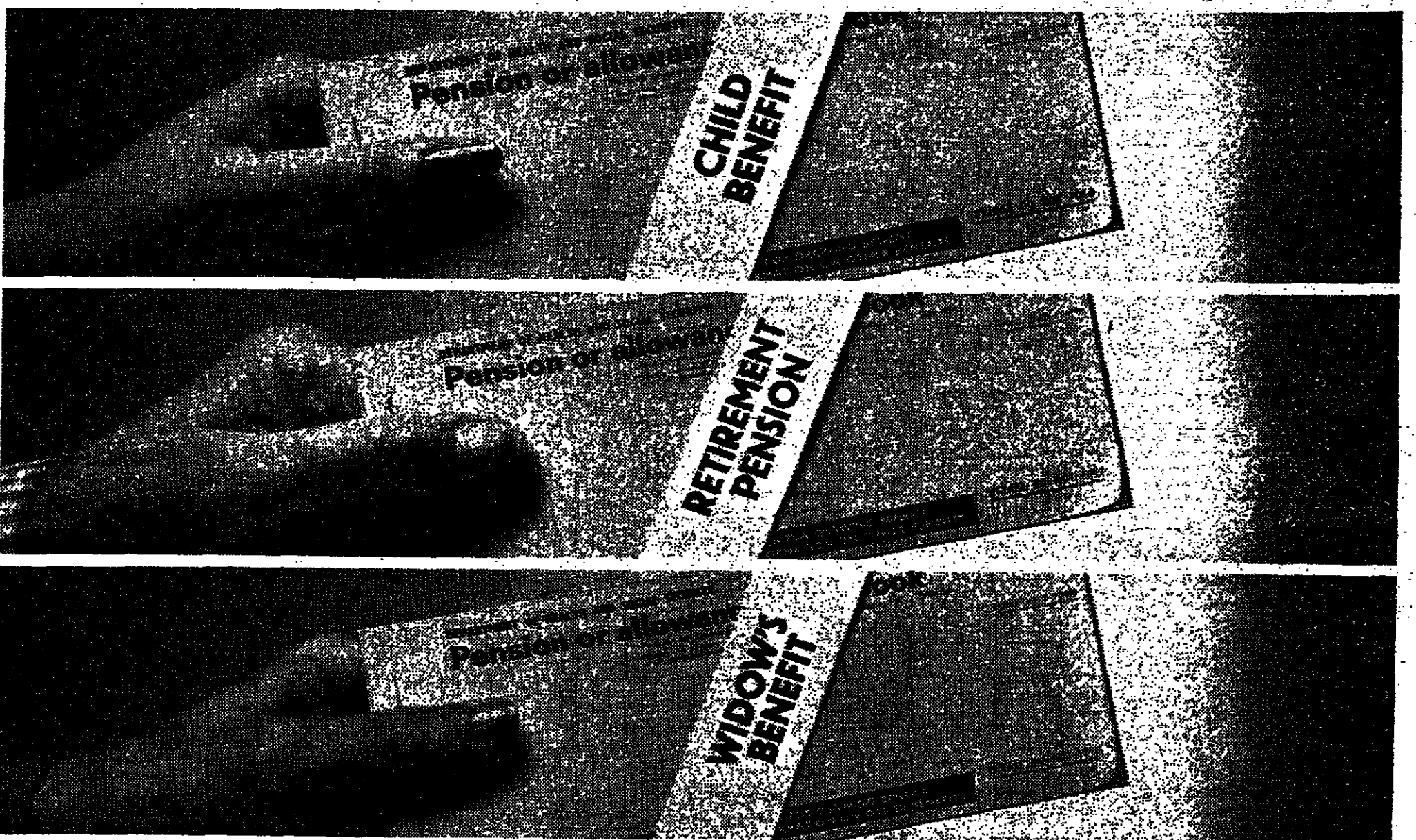
Neither the police department nor local party organizations took any action against Mr Koryniev, who in the course of time discreetly resigned his post and took a new and profitable job as director of a trading enterprise.

Pravda did not go so far as to say that Mr Koryniev had pushed the girl off the balcony, but it did take the firm view that incidents such as the drunken orgy at Kursk not go unpunished. "As Comrade Chernenko has said, it is high time we put our own house in order" the article declared.

Other cases in which official misdemeanours had been covered up because the officials concerned had connections in high places were mentioned by Pravda. It said the party district secretary in Kursk had broken a police official's leg during a drunken row and had been dismissed, yet only a short time later had been promoted to deputy head of agriculture for the Kursk region.

Even more remarkably, given the wall of secrecy surrounding appointments and dismissals in Russia, Pravda complained that no reason had been given for sacking the Kursk official in the first place.

Soviet journalists will no doubt refer to the article when investigating low-level comings and goings, and can cite Pravda's disapproval of the way in which party officials often refuse all comment on the grounds that the revelation of official misdeeds, which reflect badly on the party apparatus as a whole and undermine confidence in its fitness to govern, is undesirable.



How you'll get your increases during DHSS industrial action.

From the week commencing November 26th, Retirement Pensions, Widow's Benefits and Child Benefit will increase.

If you are paid by order book we'd normally issue you with a new book showing the increased rates.

Unfortunately, due to industrial action at the DHSS computer centres in Newcastle, many people will not get their new books in time.

We've therefore made special arrangements for those affected to get the new rates.

RETIREMENT PENSIONERS AND WIDOWS.

Please ignore this notice if you have a pension book which still has orders in it. Just continue to cash them as they become due.

If you are still being paid on your old order book, continue to call at the post office for emergency payments.

During October and November, post offices will be attaching new covers to the front of these books when they are pre-

sented for payment. These covers will show the new rate of benefit.

If a new cover has not been attached to your book by November 19th, send or take your book to your local social security office, with a note explaining that you need a new front cover.

IF YOU RECEIVE CHILD BENEFIT

Please ignore this notice if your order book contains orders dated November 26th or later which show the new rate of £6.85 per child.

Continue to cash the orders as they become due.

If your order book has already run out but you are still being paid on it, continue to call at the post office for emergency payments.

If your present book has some orders in it but they run out before November 26th, you may need to obtain emergency payments on the expired book until your new book arrives.

During October and November, post offices will be attaching new front

covers to the front of order books which do not already show the new rates, when they are presented for payment.

These covers will show the new rate of benefit.

If a new cover has not been attached to your book by November 20th (December 4th if you are paid 4-weekly), send or take your book to your local social security office, with a note explaining that you need a new front cover.

You can ignore this notice if you are paid by some method other than an order book. Further information will be given later if it is necessary for you to take special action.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused by the industrial action. Together with the Post Office we'll do all we can to see that you continue to get your benefit on time.

If for any reason you think that the wrong rate of benefit is being paid to you, check with your local social security office.

Issued by the Department of Health and Social Security



Players in the Salvadorean drama: Dr Guillermo Lingo (left) and Señor Rubén Zamora of the rebels' political front; an inhabitant of La Palma; and President Duarte.

Central America's peace quest gathers momentum

From Nicholas Ashford
Washington

Although Central America has been one of the Reagan Administration's main focuses of attention during the past three and a half years, the United States finds itself standing on the sidelines as the region begins a week of intense diplomatic activity.

The Americans were notable by their absence at the Salvadorean peace talks between President José Napoleón Duarte and the left-wing guerrillas, which got under way yesterday. The United States also found itself having to run to keep up with the suddenly accelerating Contadora peace

process to ensure that the final treaty takes into account some of Washington's main concerns.

The American absence from the Salvadorean peace talks was deliberate. The United States does not want to appear to be calling the shots for President Duarte. However, the importance with which Washington views the meeting was illustrated by the large number of American journalists who gathered in the town of La Palma to witness the historic meeting.

Although the Reagan Administration has applauded President Duarte's peace initiative, there is concern in Washington that he may have

moved too fast. US officials fear that the Salvadorean leader has acted before consolidating his support among the armed forces, and that the military commanders might undermine any agreement that may emerge from the talks.

There is also concern that President Duarte may be tempted to concede too much to the rebels in his attempt to bring an end to the fighting. However, it was thought that neither side would make important concessions at the first meeting.

Señor Duarte's offer to hold talks with insurgents took the Reagan Administration by surprise. So, did Nicaragua's

announcement three weeks ago that it would sign the 55-page Contadora draft treaty completed at the beginning of September.

For the past three weeks Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, who visited the region last week and other senior officials, have been trying to ensure that any final Contadora pact will contain certain elements that Washington wants.

Among these are tougher procedures for verifying the terms of the treaty, a detailed timetable for the withdrawal of foreign troops and advisers and tightened procedures for democratic elections.

Mr Shultz appears to have had some success in having his concerns taken into account, although some of the Contadora nations, notably Mexico, were angered that the United States should have discovered flaws in a treaty process that it had previously endorsed.

Four Central American nations - Guatemala, Costa Rica, Honduras and El Salvador - agreed that "certain changes" are needed in the draft treaty. The foreign ministers from the four, together with Nicaragua, are to meet in Honduras on Thursday to discuss possible revisions. Nicaragua, however, has said it will not accept any modifications.

● **THE HAGUE:** - The United States alleged yesterday that Nicaragua aggression was a prime cause of bloodshed in Central America, and told the International Court of Justice that negotiations being carried out by the Contadora group held out the best hope for peace in the region (Reuter reports).

Nicaragua has appealed to the court for protection against US aggression. The court made an interim judgment last May saying the United States should cease support for military activity aimed at overthrowing Nicaragua's left-wing Government.

Leading article, page 17

Nkomo to set up opposition alliance

From Jan Raath
Harare

Mr Joshua Nkomo, the leader of Zanu, has ended his party's congress with a mandate to form what looks like a loose alliance with Zimbabwe's other opposition parties, to fight the ruling Zanu (PF) in next year's general elections.

At the end of the two-day conference on Sunday, Mr Nkomo said the party had resolved to call on all "progressive forces" in Zimbabwe to form a front to unite the people in their struggle for a better life, free from racism, sexism, exploitation and tribalism.

He would not say with whom he was seeking unity, nor against whom it was to work. However, from the tone of his report to the congress on Saturday when he delivered his most prolonged and unreserved attack on the leadership of Zanu (PF), it is clear Mr Nkomo is proposing a joint assault on the ruling party in February when the country's first post independence elections are due.

He remained vague about the mechanics of the united front saying the details would be worked out by those who came forward to join it.

Bishop Abel Muzorewa, the president of the UANC which is the only significant threat to Zanu (PF) in the Shona-dominated east of the country, could not be contacted for comment.

On Sunday, Dr Nathan Shamuyarira, the Minister of Information, and a member of Zanu (PF)'s politburo, was quoted by Zimbabwe radio as saying that the United Front proposal was hypocritical and a smokescreen.

Also during the congress Mr Nkomo announced the result of the elections for the party's national executive committee, which has been reduced from 24 to 15 members. Predictably, Mr Nkomo was reelected president.

For vice-president, to replace Mr Josiah Chinamano who died on October 1, Zanu elected Mr Joseph Msika, aged 61, a staunch Anglican who has been a leading figure in politics here since 1957.

Mr Cephas Mpepe was chosen as secretary general. His elevation from Secretary for Education comes with some surprise, as it was thought he might have compromised himself with the party because he is one of three Zanu members left in the Cabinet of Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister.

Chad peace talks open in Congo at weekend

Brazzaville, Congo (AP) - All factions involved in Chad's 20-year-old civil war have agreed to open preliminary peace talks in Brazzaville on Saturday, the Congolese Foreign Minister, Mr Antoine Dinga Oba, announced here yesterday.

He hoped the talks, held at Congo's invitation, would pave the way to a full-scale "reconciliation conference" to open later in Brazzaville.

Iceland strikers break ranks

Reykjavik (Reuters) - Public transport returned to normal here yesterday after municipal employees went back to work, breaking ranks with Iceland's striking public sector unions.

Government officials hoped the deal would lead to a breakthrough in negotiations with the 14,000 still out.

Video shown in sweets hunt

Tokyo (Reuters) - Police hunting the extortion gang who plant poisoned sweets in Japanese supermarkets have released a video film of an unidentified male shopper they want to help in their enquiries.

Filmed at a Nishinomiyama supermarket last week, it was shown on all TV stations.

Beloff protest

The Yugoslav Ambassador, Mr Drago Stamenkovic, was called to the Foreign Office yesterday to receive a protest at the expulsion of the journalist, Nora Beloff, from Belgrade 10 days ago.

Gulf attack

Baghdad (Reuters) - Iraq said its planes successfully attacked a large naval target yesterday south of Iran's oil export terminal at Kharg Island in the northern Gulf.

Soweto battle

Pretoria (Reuters) - South African riot police used birdshot, tear gas and rubber bullets against 400 black youths in Soweto as unrest broke out again in black townships.

Peak deaths

Oberammergau (AP) - A 31-year-old German alpinist and his 18-month-old son, carried in a rucksack, fell 1,000ft to their deaths when the man lost his footing on the Brunnkopf peak.

MP's words sting Pretoria

Mr Donald Anderson, the British Labour Party's special emissary yesterday visited three political dissidents jailed without trial, had supper with the three still sheltering in the British Consulate here, and engaged in a verbal battle with Mr R. F. "Pik" Botha, the South African Foreign Minister.

Stung by remarks made by Mr Anderson, Labour's foreign affairs spokesman, on his arrival in South Africa on Sunday, Mr Botha challenged him to name another African country that would have allowed him to visit detainees in jail and then publicly criticize that country's government.

He also asked why a former Labour government in Britain had used exactly the same kind of laws on detention without trial, against the Irish Republic.

From Michael Hornsby, Durban

Mr Anderson said he was confident that, as a British MP, he would be allowed to visit detainees in other African countries if he asked to do so. It was odd that Mr Botha was inviting comparison with African governments when South Africa usually preferred to be judged by European standards.

Yesterday morning Mr Anderson drove 50 miles to Pietermaritzburg, to see the three Natal Indian Congress members in prison there: Mr George Sewpersadhi, Mr M. J. Naidoo and Mr Mewa Ramgobin.

After more than an hour with the three, in the presence of two prison officers, Mr Anderson said they had deeply impressed him as "men of great courage and true democrats" whose morale was high.

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Karpov takes the applause but no chances

Moscow (Reuters) - Game 13 of the world chess championship began with Anatoly Karpov, the title holder, continuing the patient approach which has brought him four wins so far against Gary Kasparov.

Karpov repeated his choice of the Rati opening, a quiet manoeuvring option that suits his temperament.

Kasparov looked quiet and subdued as he entered the hall and the applause greeting both players was audibly in favour of the champion.

THIRTEENTH GAME
White Karpov, Black Kasparov

1. N-K3 N-K3 2. P-Q4 P-Q3
3. P-Q3 P-Q4 4. B-K2 B-K2
5. P-Q3 P-Q3 6. N-K3 N-K3
7. P-Q4 P-Q4 8. B-K2 B-K2
9. B-K2 B-K2 10. P-Q4 P-Q4
11. P-Q3 P-Q3 12. B-K2 B-K2
13. B-K2 B-K2 14. P-Q3 P-Q3
15. P-Q4 P-Q4 16. B-K2 B-K2

Half-price butter will be EEC Christmas gift

From Ian Murray, Brussels

Half-price EEC butter will go on sale in Community countries this Christmas.

The European Commission has decided to put 200,000 tonnes of its 1,250,000 tonne butter mountain onto the market as a seasonal present, in an attempt to reduce soaring surpluses.

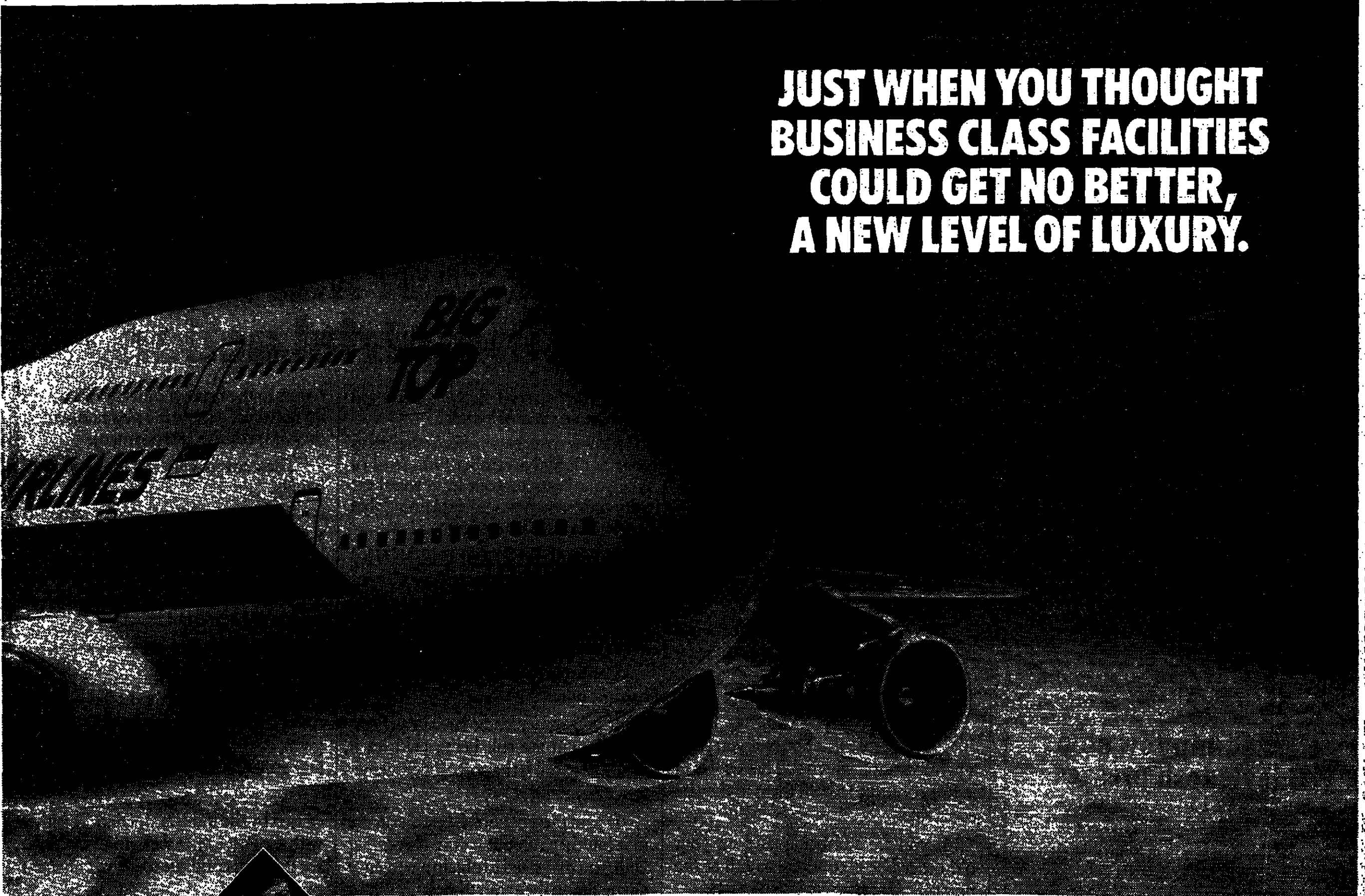
Mr Poul Dalsager, the Agriculture Commissioner, told the European Parliament's agriculture committee of his decision yesterday in Brussels. He said the Commission was prepared to sell butter stored for over 18 months at around £375 a tonne, about one sixth of the EEC price.

The cost of subsidizing the Christmas butter sale will be

about £1,000 a tonne. The Commission knows from past experience it is not a very efficient way of reducing stocks. Because the public tends to buy and hoard cheap butter, there is a surge in sales and then demand falls to well below average. The most optimistic estimate, therefore, is that the 200,000 tonnes Christmas gift will reduce the mountain only by about 60,000 tonnes.

The Commission has decided that cheap sales of old butter outside the EEC will be allowed only to customers already buying butter at the full price. Thus, if the Soviet Union or Middle East countries want to take advantage of the offer, they will also have to take fresh butter.

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SINGAPORE AIRLINES

Despite Moscow's tough line, trio of Eastern block leaders make contact with the West

Ceausescu visit bolsters Bonn Ostpolitik hopes

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

President Nicolae Ceausescu of Romania held talks here yesterday with President Richard von Weizsäcker, Chancellor Helmut Kohl and other West German government members at the start of a three-day visit that Bonn hopes will revive the East-West dialogue and its own faltering Ostpolitik.

The talks centred on ways of restarting negotiations on medium-range missiles in Europe, disarmament, trade and the situation of ethnic Germans in Romania, whose difficulties in securing permission to emigrate have been a matter of concern here. President Ceausescu is accompanied by his wife, Elena (who holds the position of Deputy Prime Minister), Mr Stefan Andrei, the Foreign Minister, and the Minister of Foreign Trade.

The visit is the first by a Warsaw Pact leader to a Nato country since the breakdown of the Geneva arms talks last year, and is going ahead in the teeth of Soviet opposition. Pressure from Moscow led to the abrupt cancellation last month of planned visits here by Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader, and President Todor Zhivkov of Bulgaria.

President Ceausescu, however, has long conducted an

individual foreign policy within the Warsaw Pact, and yesterday said in an interview with *Die Welt* that his country's independence was not affected by membership of the Soviet trading block, Comecon.

For a while, however, the visit hung in the balance because of his wish to condemn the deployment of nuclear missiles in a joint communiqué, which would run counter to Bonn's Nato commitments, and his status-conscious insistence on being met at the airport by Herr Kohl, contrary to Bonn protocol. In the end he was satisfied with the presence of Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the Foreign Minister.

Mr Ceausescu has, however, cut short his visit by two days, and said in *Die Welt* that there had to be a freeze on missile deployment in Europe before arms talks could start again. Echoing the Soviet line, he said Washington had to take the first step to end the deadlock, though he added that a reciprocal step should follow from the other side.

The Kohl Government does not expect Romania to have much influence in getting arms talks going again, and is careful not to overplay the importance of the visit so as not to arouse



All smiles: President Ceausescu (left) with President von Weizsäcker at Falkenlust Castle, near Bonn, yesterday.

false expectations. But the fact that it is going ahead is a boost to Bonn's attempts to keep relations normal with Eastern Europe after the deployment of the Nato missiles.

Mr Ceausescu has also called

for the lifting of German restrictions on trade with Bucharest, and said his country was interested in improving cooperation with West German firms, mainly through barter trade.

Kadar trip to Paris strengthens the French connexion

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Mr János Kadar, the Hungarian leader, arrived in Paris yesterday for a two-day official visit at the invitation of President Mitterrand. He is the first high-ranking official from the Soviet block to be received by Mitterrand since he came to power three and a half years ago.

Relations between the two countries are considered good, and are even described by some as exemplary. France appreciates Hungary's relatively tolerant and outward-looking regime, and considers the country as forming an important bridge in East-West relations.

Mr Kadar, who took over the leadership after the suppression of the Hungarian Revolution in 1956, has been to France once before on an official visit - in 1978, at the invitation of President Giscard d'Estaing. He has received visits from several Western leaders this year, including Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Chancellor Kohl of West Germany, and Signor Bettino Craxi, the Italian Prime Minister.

Talks are also scheduled with M Laurent Fabius, the Prime Minister, M Claude Cheysson, the Foreign Minister, M Georges Marchais, the Communist leader, M Yvon Gattaz, leader of the main employers' organi-

zation, and several leading industrialists.

Franco-Hungarian trade relations are not as healthy as political relations. France accounts for less than 2 per cent of Hungarian exports, the traditional trade surplus in France's favour has been whittled away over the past few years and in the first six months of this year, a deficit with Hungary was registered for the first time.

● HELSINKI: The East German leader, Herr Erich Honecker, arrives in Finland today on his first visit to a non-communist country since calling off a planned trip to West Germany last month after strong Soviet criticism (Reuter reports).

Scheduled media interviews with Herr Honecker during his four-day trip were cancelled last week, apparently to spare him questions about the Kremlin's role in his decision to postpone the first visit to Bonn by an East German party leader.

The move also means that journalists will not be able to question him on the future of more than 100 East Germans sheltering in the West German Embassy in Prague in hopes of obtaining exit permits to the West.

Senegal ousts its Foreign Minister

From Simon MacDonnell, Dakar

Senegal's Foreign Minister, Mr Moustapha Niasse, has been replaced in a Government reshuffle announced by President Abdou Diouf.

The new minister is Mr Ibrahim Thiello, hitherto Minister for Higher Education. Divisions within the ruling Socialist Party have been steadily widening, with factions at each other's throats. The outgoing Foreign Minister's behaviour last month, when he pushed the Minister for Information, during a Cabinet meeting, is thought to have made his replacement inevitable.

Mr Niasse, aged 45, had been considered one of the top three politicians in Senegal, with a solid reputation as Foreign Minister and as a dedicated party man. He has held several ministerial positions under President Diouf and former President Senghor.

There has been tension, too, in the regional party bases as moves were made to replace old party members in key positions with President Diouf's followers before the municipal elections in November. Violence broke out in several towns, and officially four people were killed.

The fighting comes at a time when low wages, high prices and unemployment, officially estimated at 30 per cent, are causing discontent.

Sir John Leahy, Britain's High Commissioner in Canberra, has expressed concern at some of the allegations being made about Britain at the Royal Commission into British nuclear tests in Australia.

Envoy hits at A-test allegations

From Tony Duboué, Melbourne

Sir John Leahy, the new British High Commissioner in Canberra, has expressed concern at some of the allegations being made about Britain at the Royal Commission into British nuclear tests in Australia.

Sir John, who only arrived in Australia on Saturday, said yesterday the allegations that concerned him suggested the British Government had deliberately put servicemen at risk had not taken precautions and had been callous, mindless and incompetent during the tests in the 1950s and 60s.

He said his country's name had been "dragged along the floor" at the Royal Commission. Britain had been tempted to respond to some of the allegations, but had decided to remain silent.

Plight of Guatemala Indians

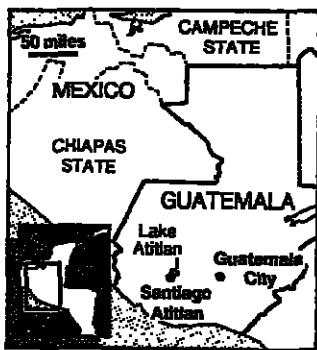
Shy victims trapped in a brutal war

From Christopher Thomas, Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala

The village of Santiago Atitlan is a maze of shabby huts and derelict tin-topped houses packed together on forested volcanic slopes leading down to a lake. Only a huge and beautiful Roman Catholic church breaks a picture of abject poverty.

The Tz'utuhil Indians have lived here, 50 miles from Guatemala City for centuries, a reclusive and timid people who have learned to obey the *maritzas*, be they soldiers or guerrillas. Santiago Atitlan, like thousands of small Indian communities in Guatemala, has been caught in a brutal, internal war in which its only role is victim.

The soldiers who come in belching diesel transport lorries are treated with wary respect. It used to be guerrillas who stood in the



border. The Guatemalan military sometimes attacks selected camps in search of guerrillas suspected of hiding there, promoting fierce protests from the Mexicans. There are 80 refugee settlements in the jungles of Chiapas state in Mexico, all of which are being steadily closed.

In their place a sprawling new refugee centre is rising in the valley of Edzna in the state of Campeche, a sparsely populated farming area 125 miles north of the border.

The massacres of Indians and destruction of their communities by the military, has been described as a policy of "removing the water from the fish".

The practice seems to be less prevalent under General Oscar Mejia Victores, the chief of state, than it was under his deposed predecessor, General Rios Montt.

General Mejia has of late been inaugurating more "model villages" that the Government is building in the countryside for displaced Indians.

The Indian culture is crushed within the strict rules and confines of the "villages". The Archbishop of Guatemala described them as "non-model" villages.

It is impossible in large areas of the Guatemala countryside to drive far without being repeatedly stopped by gun-toting bands of Indian "civil patrols" set up by the military. In return for food and a strictly rationed number of rifles, many Indians have turned into auxiliary troops. It was a move of uncommon subtlety by the military - they call it the beans and bullets programme - and it has worked. Subversion has declined sharply.

It is ironic that many - though by no means all - Indians are helping the very people responsible for so much butchery and social destruction. The Indians are simple, easily manipulated people whose plight continues to be one of the greatest human tragedies of contemporary Central America.

Hundreds of thousands of Indians have been displaced, many of them by the military's "scorched earth" policy of destroying ancient communities suspected of harbouring left-wing guerrillas. The guerrillas, too, have scared many away.

The Mexican Government estimates that there are 46,000 Guatemalan Indian refugees in camps along its southern

Britons to probe rights violations

Two British parliamentarians left for Guatemala yesterday to investigate reports of human rights violations (Reuter reports from London).

Lord Avebury and Mr Anthony Lloyd, Labour MP for Stroud, are representing the Parliamentary Human Rights Group.

dingy central plaza next to the church, brandishing rifles and hectoring the Tz'utuhil in their own rattling tongue.

But a few years ago the Army set up a camp on the only winding road into the village and scattered the guerrillas. There is hectoring of another hue now.

The women walk in groups, earthenware jugs atop their heads, a gay sight in bright, traditional clothes. Their children's bellies are often distended.

This men are to be seen labouring under impossible loads of firewood, corn and bamboo.

Indians make up almost 60 per cent of the population of Guatemala. They have traditionally preferred separation from the rest.

Hundreds of thousands of Indians have been displaced, many of them by the military's "scorched earth" policy of destroying ancient communities suspected of harbouring left-wing guerrillas. The guerrillas, too, have scared many away.

Chinese grow taller on protein diet

Peking (Reuter). - China's official Communist newspaper defended Peking's policy of throwing open its doors to the outside world as party chiefs met yesterday to endorse sweeping economic reforms.

"Some people are always afraid of capitalism. In reality there is no need. It should be capitalism that leads socialism, not socialism that fears capitalism," the *People's Daily* said.

The signed article, filling three-quarters of a page, was published as the Central Committee met to discuss China's economic direction and approve big urban reforms.

China, anxious to attract overseas capital and technology as part of a big modernization drive, announced last spring it was opening 14 coastal cities to foreign investment.

Peking defends opening door to outside world

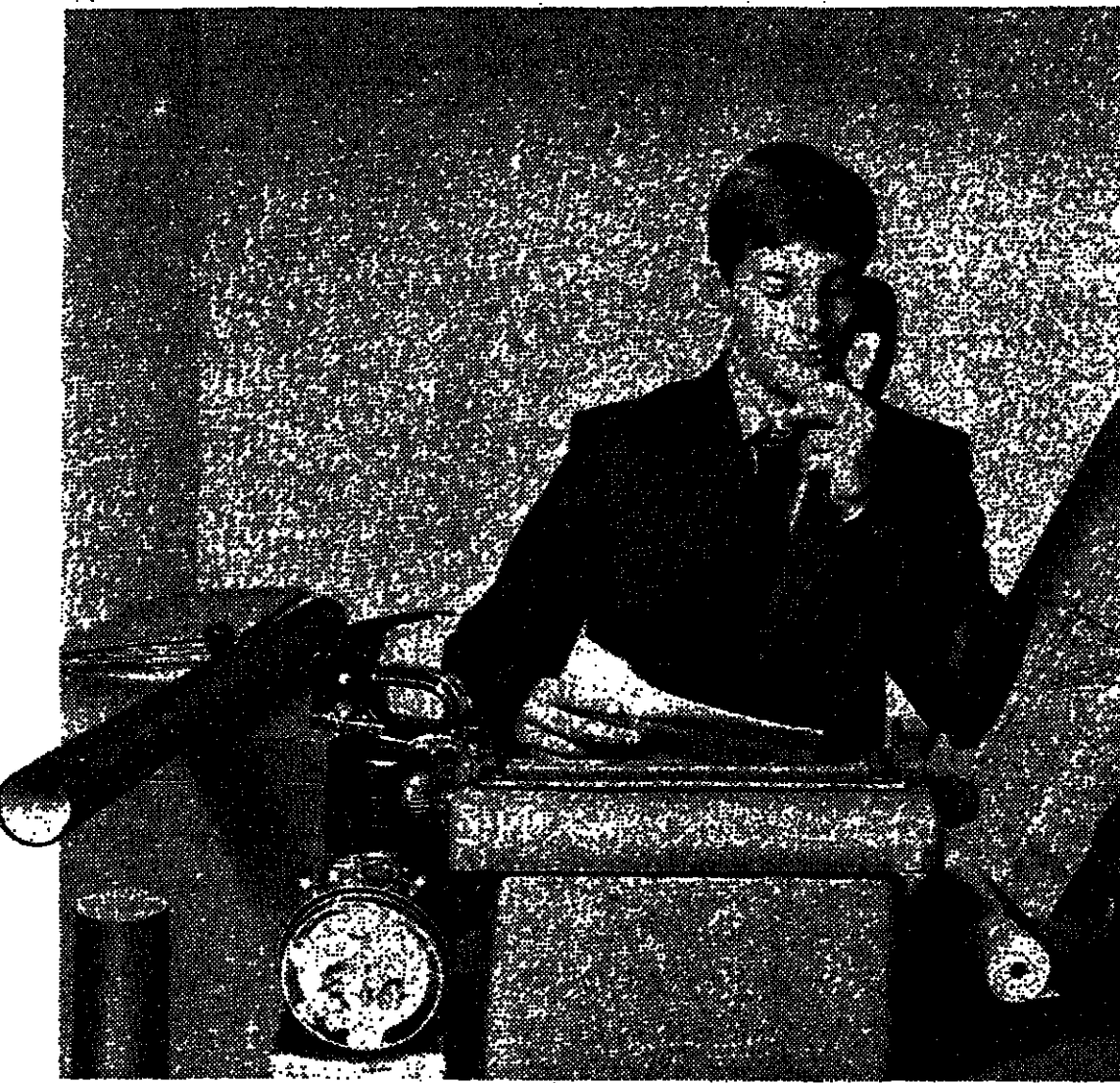
Peking (Reuter). - The Chinese are growing taller because they are better fed and this has improved their performance in international sporting events, the *China Daily* newspaper reported yesterday.

China's one billion people were eating more meat, fish and eggs and were growing taller as a result.

"In the last 30 years the average height of our young people has been increasing at a rate of almost one inch every 10 years," Mr Chen said.

A 1979 survey of 20,000 students in 16 provinces showed that boys were 5.6cm (2 1/4 in) taller than those in 1955, while girls were 5.11cm taller.

In Peking in 1979 the average height of boys was 1.72m (5ft 7 1/2 in) while girls were (5ft 2 1/4 in).



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Town _____ Age (18-35) _____

The Territorials

Arrest ordered of journalist who reported temple atrocities

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

The Punjab Government has ordered the arrest of a journalist over a news report which appeared on page one of *The Times* four months ago.

An armed inspector of the Punjab police yesterday appeared at the offices of the American news agency, Associated Press, in Delhi to detain Mr Brahma Chellaney, a staff correspondent on a non-bailable warrant issued in Amritsar. The warrant charges that Mr Chellaney breached sections of the Indian law relating to the

Amritsar when other correspondents working for foreign media were removed from the state just before the army action in June.

In a report he filed to his agency, which was used prominently in this newspaper on June 14, he said that witnesses had declared that a number of Sikhs had been found dead with their hands tied behind their backs with their turbans, and that the numbers of those who died in the army assault on the temple were far higher than had been publicly admitted.

The report rapidly became the focus of protest among the Sikh community, and was on one occasion produced in the upper house of the Indian Parliament.

Mr Chellaney was not at the AP office when inspector P. N. Mehta of Amritsar called, but his employers said that he would surrender to the police with his lawyer at an appropriate time.

But this is the first time that the Government has tried to jail a journalist working for the foreign media since the emergency of 1977. Then, too, *The Times* was among those affected: the Delhi correspondent, Mr Kuldip Nayar, was among those seized.

The central Government spokesman tried to claim yesterday that the action against Mr Chellaney was entirely the responsibility of the Punjab Government.

Four killed in Tripura strike

Rebels killed four civilians in the troubled north-east of India yesterday when they enforced a 24-hour general strike or *bandh* in Tripura State. (Michael Hamlyn writes). The action was called to mark the anniversary of the state's accession to the Indian union in 1949, and was led by the Tribal National Volunteers, members of which ambushed lorries plying in defiance of the strike along the road from Agartala to Assam.

creation of disharmony among different communities, and also broke regulations regarding the transmission of information about the army action in seizing the Golden Temple.

Mr Chellaney, aged 27, who has been working for AP for six years, was left behind in



Over and out: Mr Bob Hawke's glasses shatter (left) as he is hit during a cricket match against the Canberra press gallery, and he then reels away (right). He received minor eye scratches, and returned as a spectator.

Australia kicks off with longest poll campaign

From Tony Dabondin, Melbourne

Mr Andrew Peacock, Leader of the Opposition, was on the stump around the marginal seats of Melbourne's eastern suburbs yesterday while Mr Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, went to sea with the Navy on the first day of what will be Australia's longest election campaign.

Mr Peacock visited a hospital, made a speech to students, lunched at a suburban hotel and shook hands and chatted at two markets.

Throughout the day the Opposition Leader hammered away at the issue of a capital

gains tax which, he said, Labour would introduce if reelected on December 1.

Mr Hawke went to sea on board the frigate *Adelaide* off Jervis Bay, sporting the badly swollen eye he received when a cricket ball hit his glasses and scratched his eye during a match between his team and the Canberra press gallery on Sunday. He narrowly escaped serious injury to his right eye.

His trip yesterday was intended to show him how the Navy will handle the new Sikorsky helicopters ordered last week.

Influx alarms Anglos

Fear and prejudice delay acceptance

The growing Hispanic population of the United States has yet to realize its political potential. But it already has a vital part in the economy. In the second of our series, Trevor Fahlock reports from California on hopes and fears.

Most Americans, according to a survey, think immigrants take jobs from American workers and cost them more in taxes and welfare payments. When they think more carefully, however, they agree that migrants work hard and do jobs Americans are unwilling to do.

Fear and prejudice play their part. Many Anglos in the South-west watch the burgeoning Hispanic, mostly Mexican, minority with some disquiet. For them the Mexicans - brown, Catholic, Spanish-speaking different - seem to offer threats to their jobs and way of life. They think that eventually these people will want a larger economic and political share.

Although the influx of Mexicans is popularly described as a flood, the truth is that the tide is not that great by historical standards.

The United States absorbed larger immigrant waves when it was economically smaller. In a rich and powerful country of more than 235 million an influx of half a million to a million a year, while it produces social strains, is not economically dangerous.

Indeed, the weight of evidence is that immigration is a benefit. In respect of Mexicans the United States is importing a working class to do what Americans will not do: manual work, crop picking, labour in low-wage factories.

These immigrants, legal and illegal, mostly Mexicans in their prime working years, fill gaps in the labour market and stimulate manufacturing activity. A recent study in Southern California, where there are three million Hispanic people, concluded that Mexican migrants produce an additional \$1.5 billion for the local economy and that they are "a definite plus".

These people are cheap labour, keeping down costs and helping to make their employers competitive. That is why there is a growing demand for migrant labour - and no questions asked.

Migrants themselves are desperately anxious for bottom-rung jobs. An hour's work in a sweatshop or on the farm can pay as much as a day's work in Mexico. Men become wet-backs, enduring hardships, risks and disappointments because they want to improve themselves.

For some the choice is stark:

go to the United States for work, or starve. Certainly migrants make a demand on schools and public services and pay less in taxes than they receive in benefits. But the California survey points out, so do two thirds of the people in the state.

In any case, Hispanics, like many other immigrants, do not come to the US to get on the welfare rolls. Overwhelmingly, they come to work.

Many, of course, have prospered. But they still feel discriminated against. They feel stereotyped - trapped - as low-grade workers. Their average income lags far behind the Anglo average and they are well behind educationally. Hispanic children drop out of school in large numbers, partly because of language difficulties.

Hispanics themselves have mixed feelings about the increase in immigration. Some resent it. They have found a place and they do not want the boat rocked. They believe it

HISPANICS IN THE US:

Part 2

heightens Anglo fears. They suspect, too, that immigration legislation would lead to a repeat of the deportation campaigns of the 1930s which were outgrowths of white hysteria.

Many of them already feel in a precarious position. Rides on factories by the immigration service round up large numbers of illegal migrants and the Immigration Service is feared and hated by many Hispanics who feel the raids are brutal.

The disparate Hispanic communities are in transition. While older families, which have been in the United States for generations, have been assimilated, newer arrivals are still struggling.

They have been keeping their heads down, but slowly they are seeing the possibilities opened up by education and the use of the vote. Cultural adjustments are enormous and sometimes painful, but increasingly, their children are becoming English-speaking, looking for a life outside the *barrio*. Many Mexicans, in particular, still find it hard to take the step of American citizenship. They are proud to be Mexican, send dollars home, and think wistfully of returning. But many, too, have anchored and seek to join the American mainstream. What they ache for is acceptance.

Tomorrow: The border

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HALIFAX THE WORLD'S No1

Malaysia leader keeps up attacks on Japan

From David Watts, Tokyo

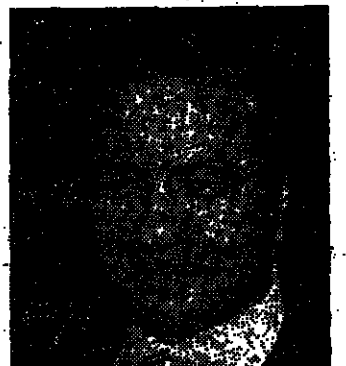
First the Malaysian Prime Minister accused Britain of perpetuating the colonial era and imposed 18 months of trade sanctions which ended in April 1983. Then he turned his rhetorical guns on Japan.

In a highly emotional attack on Japan at a Japan-Malaysia seminar in August, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed accused Japan of practising economic colonialism and gave word that his "Look East, Learn from Japan" policy was not an invitation to arrogance or insensitive behaviour.

To add insult to injury Dr Mahathir failed to show up at the opening of the Japan-Malaysia colloquium which he himself had suggested and instead had his speech read for him by the Minister of Trade, Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah.

Yesterday Dr Mahathir was in Tokyo to give personal voice to the most direct attack on Japanese policies by an Asian head of state in many years. His August attack left the Ministry of Foreign Affairs visibly shocked by the outburst which appeared to be calculated to hit Japanese sensitivities in particularly vulnerable spots by speaking of a new forced opening of Japan by Asian "black ships".

Dr Mahathir met Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Japanese Prime Minister, for a 40 minute tête à tête. Afterwards the



Dr Mahathir: Shocked Foreign Ministry

Japanese Prime Minister was more than usually close-mouthed about the meeting. But the Japanese appeared ready to try to defuse Dr Mahathir's most recent complaint and the one that apparently triggered his outburst - the question of trans-Pacific air rights for the national carrier, Malaysian Airlines.

The Japanese have agreed to study the possibility of joint operation of such rights but it is not a prospect that is likely to give Japan Airlines much pleasure. The route is already one of the most highly competitive in the world.

But even if there is agreement on trans-Pacific services it will do little to alleviate the fundamental nature of the problems which prompted Dr Mahathir's original complaint - a trade deficit of \$2bn a year.

Fast Lane

Ferrari's new Testarossa
New cars from Reliant, Panther, Marcos, Audi
Jaguar XJ-S supertest
Win an Astra GTE
Bimota, the uncompromising superbike

Motor Show Special at your nearest 900

Pay your phone bill for six months. Just by lifting a finger.

Are you throwing a quarter of your valuable heat away?

You could be if your loft isn't insulated.

Even if it is, the insulation should be at least 4" deep.

Lift a finger to look in your loft now.

You could save enough money to pay the average phone bill for six months. Not just this year but every year.

1. Fill in the gaps between the joists with rolls of insulation blanket, which comes in a range of lengths and thicknesses.

If you already have insulation, check that it is at least 4" deep. If not, top up with another layer of blanket.

Or you can use loose-fill, which should be up to 6" deep, depending on which type you use.

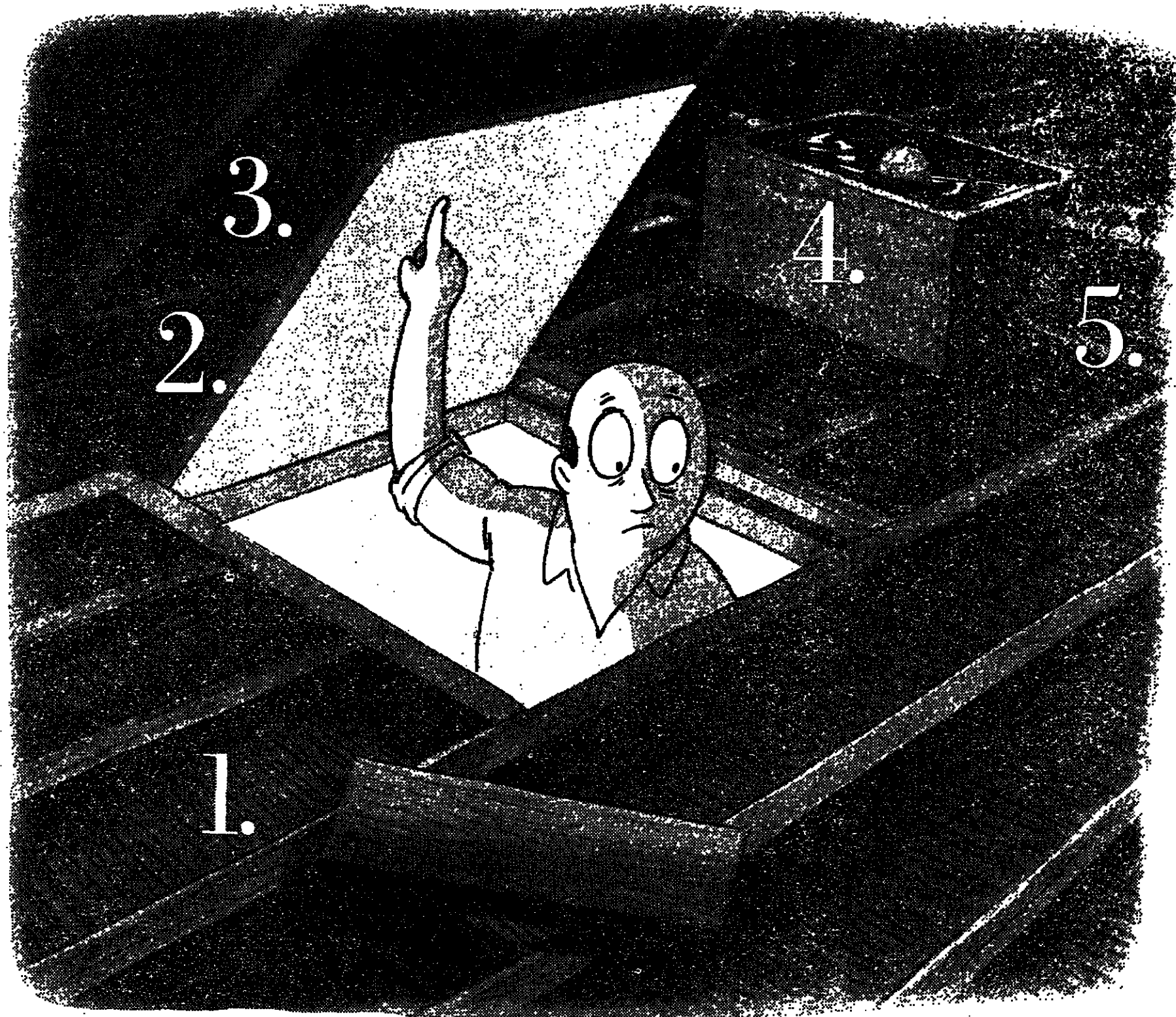
2. Don't forget to insulate your loft hatch, too. Stick self-adhesive foam around the edges and tack insulating material to the top.

3. You need some ventilation in the loft to prevent condensation and rot. Be careful not to plug gaps at the eaves or any ventilation holes.

4. By making the house warmer, you make the loft colder. It's essential to insulate your cold water tank, otherwise it could freeze in winter.

Wrap some insulating blanket around and over the tank - making sure that it is sealed so that fibres can't get into the water. Alternatively, you can use polystyrene panels, which are easy to cut to size.

But don't insulate under the tank. The small amount of heat rising underneath it will help stop the water freezing in winter.



5. Don't run the risk of cold water pipes freezing. Lag them, using insulating strips cut to length, or pre-formed pipe insulation. You can get them both at most DIY stores.

And why lose heat and money from your hot water pipes? Lag them, too, in the same way.

If you have no loft insulation, your council will give you a grant through the 'Homes Insulation Scheme.' This could cover two thirds of the cost - up to £69.

Or if you already have loft insulation, but it's 1" deep or less, you can get a grant to top it up to 4".

Are you elderly or severely disabled, or on a low income? If so, you could get a

higher grant to cover 90% of the cost. This could mean as much as £95 towards insulating your loft.

Whatever grant you wish to apply for, you must get in touch with your council before you start.

And lift a finger to send off the coupon for two free booklets, which are full of more easy ways to save money and keep warmer. No stamp needed.

Lift a finger

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THE ARTS

Television
Roars and rebellion

"I would shout and roar and protest and threaten and even went to the lengths of using my fists to get my way", said Lord Shinwell, within three days of becoming the first peer to receive a congratulatory telegram from the Queen on his 100th birthday and looking still capable of direct action.

He was speaking in *The Oldest Rebel: The Life and Times of Lord Shinwell*, written by Robert Skidelsky with Robert Carvel and Bob Cuddihy interviewing, last night's birthday greeting from Channel 4.

He looked back on a career which included five months in jail for inciting the Glasgow riots of 1919, a direct hand in the rise and fall of his idol Ramsay MacDonald, implementation of the nationalization of the mines, a successful, hawkish reign as Minister of Defence, and chairmanship of the Labour Party.

There were tributes from Lord George Brown, Mr Callaghan, Lord Brockway, and Lord Boothby. The latter recalled that Lord Shinwell had not always been as popular as he now was: "Everybody loves everybody, I am delighted to tell you, after they are eighty".

Exceptions might have been the MP the then Mr Shinwell thumped in the House and Ernest Bevin. It was he who remarked, when someone observed that Shinwell was his own worst enemy: "Not while I'm alive".

Bevin's animosity sprang from Shinwell's formation of the breakaway Seafarers' Union in Glasgow before the First World War and it lasted.

Dr Hugh Dalton was a non-admirer, too. He blamed Mr Shinwell for the "Shiver with Shinwell" winter of 1947 when grates were empty and the lights went out daily. Lord Shinwell, looking back on this bleak period, said that only Attlee had stood by him.

Attlee had sent him to the War Office. Lord Boothby thought he had been "the best Minister of Defence since the war". Unexpectedly, he calmed the apprehensive blimps and deterred Montgomery from making political speeches by threatening to riposte with speeches on military strategy. Both had been "oddballs", commented General Sir John Hackett.

Lord Shinwell, regretting old age, said he had enjoyed it all. He reflected on Labour's errors of judgment and, shaking hands with Mr Kinnoch, offered advice: "Don't smile too much". Mr Kinnoch, not yet ready to shout, roar, or use his fists, smiled.

Dennis Hackett

In my review yesterday I inadvertently called the director of *Big Deal Terence*, instead of Brian Lighthill. My apologies.

Scottish Opera

Richard Mantle, Deputy Managing Director of the English National Opera, is to take over as Managing Director of Scottish Opera. John Cox, who is currently General Administrator of SO, will be Artistic Director and Sir Alexander Gibson Director of Music.

The Irish Impressionists

National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin

William Morris and the Middle Ages

Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester

Joyce Clissold

Waterman's Art Centre, Bradford

Though *The Irish Impressionists* is a title to capture both eye and mind it is slightly curious when you consider that not all of the artists in the National Gallery of Ireland's new show (until November 18) are reliably Irish, and arguably none of them is actually Impressionist. Indeed Julian Campbell, the author of the catalogue-book which accompanies the show, finally plumps for Walter Osborne, whom the gallery showed extensively last year, as "the only Irish artist who could justifiably be called 'an Irish Impressionist'".

What, then, is the show really about? Actually it does have a theme, and an interesting one, which is more accurately embodied in the subtitle, "Irish Artists in France and Belgium, 1850-1914".

Despite the centuries-old Irish presence in Louvain, there seems to be no particular link between Ireland and the French-speaking countries. But since at least the beginning of the nineteenth century Irish artists of any ambition were likely to go abroad in order to study, and France seems to have been more favoured than England, as it was for the Scots and the English themselves. Though, especially in early days, it was often a completely academic training that these artists sought, oddly enough it was only with the rise of the more exciting non-academic groups of artists in France - first of all the pre-Impressionists around Barbizon - that the trickle became something like a flood.

The first artist represented in the show, Nathaniel Hone, is completely Barbizon in feeling, with his dark-toned woodland scenes, and so presumably was the mysterious Richard Horn, who figures in memoirs of the period, although the show's organizers have not been able to turn up a single one of his many exhibited works.

Already with the second

Knussen score

Oliver Knussen, the composer, has not yet completed the score of *Higglety Pigglety Pop* commissioned by the BBC for Glyndebourne.

It will be given by Glyndebourne Touring Opera in Oxford (October 20), Southampton (October 27), Plymouth (November 3), Manchester (November 10) and Norwich (November 17).

Galleries
Irish eyes on French landscapes

Celtic simplicity: Aloysius Kelly's 'Girl in a Meadow'

artist, Frank O'Meara, though he died young in 1888, the influence of Bastien-Lepage is predominant, and his elegantly autumnal *Towards Night and Winter* (1885) is a perfect example of the style which was to dominate art in Britain for a couple of decades: the crisp, sharp-outlined *Pleinairisme* which was to inculcate British artists against a headier infection of Impressionism proper. Many of the artists on show followed this particular line, during and after their obligatory period in French or Belgian schools: there is an expressively gloomy view by one of them, Dermot O'Brien, of a life class in the Fine Art Academy, Antwerp, which might almost be specifically designed to counter optimistic notions of bohemian revels in foreign parts, and since that dates from 1890 and almost immediately we come to Roderic O'Connor and the dazzling work he was doing around Pont-Aven at the same time, we have the impression of jumping at once from pre-Impressionism to Post-Impressionism, with no real Impressionism in between.

Along the way there are many painters almost entirely unknown until this show who look very interesting and well worthy of further exploration, among them several women, such as Sarah Purser and Helen Mabel Trevor. Osborne again comes out of it very well: one can easily understand why last year's Osborne show was the most popular the National Gallery has ever had. And the gradual ascension out of Barbizon russet tones to a blaze of early twentieth-century colour is impressive as well as heartening.

In particular it would be good to know more about William John Leech, who captures an extraordinary dazzle of light in his *Coburn Garden, Brittany* (c.1912) and looks even further forward in his *Un Matin, Waring Thorne, Concarnou*, with its dominating, almost abstract plant-shapes - and for that matter about the mystifying Aloysius O'Kelly, whose precise birth and death are not known and who seems to come up with a different style in virtually every painting.

The Whitworth Art Gallery

in Manchester makes no apology for offering yet another William Morris show in this, the 150th anniversary of his birth. And rightly so, for

William Morris and the Middle Ages (until December 8) is indeed something different. It concerns itself not so much with Morris himself as with a whole movement of later Victorian taste and interest, into which Morris importantly fitted and which finally he managed to direct very much the way he thought it ought to go. The show begins with the romantic fantasies, not too concerned with archaeological accuracy, of Scott, the Eglinton Tournament and the rush of fancy dress, balls of which the Buckingham Palace ball of 1862 was only the most lavish and famous. Already by then Victoria (and Albert, of course) insisted on a measure of serious documentation, and the antiquary was beginning to be replaced by the art historian.

On to this scene burst the young enthusiasts of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, in love with their own rather different dream of the Middle Ages, and

to move from Macise to Millais or Rossetti is to sense an immediate transformation of sensibility. Ironically, the original PRB very rapidly outgrew this phase, but not before they had fired an even younger generation, that of Morris and Burne-Jones. The rest of the show demonstrates how Morris and the artists and craftsmen round him went on to experiment with medieval ideals, now or imagined, and explore how they might best be transplanted to the nineteenth century and incorporated in the way people furnished their houses or conducted their lives.

Morris himself was well aware that, while he advocated a return to the guild system of cooperative endeavour and simple hand-craftsmanship, in practice this reduced him to catering for the whims of the rich. But at this distance of time it must be admitted that many of the tapestries and wallpapers and stained-glass windows Morris and Co produced are, however, elitist their public, remarkably beautiful. Not very medieval in style, though the subject matter may be Arthurian or Chaucerian, but by the 1890s the style has moved far away from medieval crabbiness and intricacy towards a quite classical simplicity and balance.

From national to regional to local. The new Waterman's Art Centre in Brentford starts its exhibition programme with a tribute to a distant follower of Morris, who also happened to be a local worthy, Joyce Clissold, whose textiles, collages and drawings are on show until November 4.

The cutting and printing of woodblocks for textiles was her central occupation: early on she cut some blocks of designs by Paul Nash, but soon she came to work entirely on her own designs, which were in some what the same discreetly modernist style, and, moreover, persuade many society ladies to wear clothes made from the resulting fabrics by her workshop, Footprints.

She even stayed active, on a more modest scale, until her death in 1982, by which time Footprints was just about the last design workshop to carry on a direct tradition from the Arts and Crafts revival instigated by Morris himself. The show is charming and nostalgic, but also performs a real service: no scholarship by filling in a small but important gap in our knowledge of the Crafts revival before and after, and the stalwart band of eccentrics who carried the torch through to the era of the Crafts Council and the British Crafts Centre, often without receiving any but posthumous honour for their work.

John Russell Taylor

Concerts

A flash of the fandango

José Carreras Festival Hall

As his album has it, for José Carreras, *Love is...* an encore called "Tonight", a bunch of red roses, a flash of the fandango, and a swish of the seguidilla. Carreras was limbering upon Sunday for his Covent Garden Don José at the end of the week. Encouraging him, not least in Bizet's own *Carmen* Suite, was Enrique García-Asensio, conducting, and the latter's brother, José-Luis García, leading the English Chamber Orchestra.

It was a Spanish finger buffet with selected orchestral canvases: some Iberian Verdi and a rumbustious Intermezzo from *La Boda de Luis Alonso* by Gerónimo Giménez. Spain's Johann Strauss. Indeed, not until the scents of Seville wafted into the wings did Carreras really present his devoted audience with oratory as well as rhetoric. In the first half, his arias by Massenet (*Le Cid*) and

Cilea (*L'Arlésiana*) had been tensely theatrical rather than dramatic, the melodic line tightly compressed, the vocal chords resilient but under pressure.

After the *Carmen* Suite, though, combustion was spontaneous. Two Neapolitan songs by Tosti, in their sympathetic orchestration, by Peter Hope, massaged and warmed the vowels, to carry the full fervour of Rodolfo Falvo's "Diciemmo la vule", the head voice expanded and the elegant cut of the line became nuanced.

In a year when Spain itself is rediscovering the joy of its late nineteenth-century zarzuela, a cousin of the French and Viennese operetta, Carreras treated us to an ardent "No puede ser" from Sorozábal's *La Tabernera del Puerto*. Apart from Carreras's recordings, England is generally unfamiliar with this repertoire. New Sadlers Wells Opera, were you listening?

Hilary Finch

Monophonic minstrels

New London Consort/Pickett Elizabeth Hall

I missed the fire-eating, but the rest of this "Medieval Extravaganza" which erupted in and around the Elizabeth Hall on Saturday afternoon and evening seemed less than wildly extravagant. Philip Pickett's expert Consort, fresh from its remarkable success with the Carmina Burana at the Proms, was aiming to "evoke the atmosphere of a Lenten Minstrel's Gathering", but simply turned in a very decent and quite sober concert of medieval goodies.

The extravaganzas of the evening came from John Ballenger's sarcastic mimed commentaries from the sidelines, the sudden eruption of a chain of children from the audience led by Madeline Inglehearn's *Companie of Dancers* around the gangways of the hall, and the final appearance of an uncredited figure dressed as a ghostly, skeletal figure of death (presumably a guest appearance by Ken Livingstone), who swept all before him off stage to their eternal doom.

Musically the succession of monophonic songs in tripping triple-time with scrubbed and heaviest accompaniments evoked the atmosphere of a Lenten penance session for over-jovial medievalists. But there were good things, too, particularly in a group of pieces by Adam de la Halle, and in those numbers where the individual sound of the Consort's leading singer, Catherine Bott, emerged most clearly. She has now made her own distinctive inflections and free picking of these songs, and she was complemented by a small vocal ensemble, which matched that style closely.

There were a number of interesting reworkings of well-known hits, among them "Polorum Regina" and "A l'entrade del tens clar", and though I found Michael George's baritone a touch too suave for "Kalenda Maya", the improvisatory spirit of the lively instrumental contributions was always striking. I cannot imagine medieval *vieille* players taking quite so much trouble tuning, but then the BBC would not have been recording the 13th century original.

Nicholas Kenyon

Debuts

Kitten on the keys

If the success of a debut were to be judged on the size and the enthusiasm of the audience alone, then David Kuyken's piano recital at the Queen Elizabeth Hall would be accounted an exceptional triumph. But in musical terms it had less to recommend it. Mr Kuyken is a fluent, technically accomplished pianist who can maintain a steady flow of figuration in Liszt's transcription of Bach's A minor Prelude and Fugue for organ, or dash lightly through Haydn's D major Sonata, Hob XVI No 24, without any appearance of difficulty, and indeed without much appearance of interest.

His tone is rather shallow - he uses the weight of his wrist very rarely, and hardly ever dips deep into the keys - and so the colour of his playing tends to be an unvaried grey, certainly Brahms's Four Ballades, Op 10, dispatched without much passion, without any light and shade, came out as dispiritingly monochrome.

An altogether more vigorous and involved impression was given by the French pianist Bertrand Molia at the Wigmore Hall, in front of a much smaller audience. His account of Schumann's *Carnaval* ended with a spectacular wrong note, which he had the conviction to correct immediately. There was strength and a good deal of guts in his playing, but what he lacked was rhythmic subtlety.

I had to leave Mr Molia's recital at half-time to catch a

second debut that evening, by the Finnish violinist, Eeva Koskinen. Her accounts of the Brahms First Sonata and Ysaÿe's Third Sonata were quite the most stimulating things I heard all week: not because they were perfect but because they demonstrated a quality of musical imagination which was missing from the other performances.

The Brahms was quite awkward, but very ambitious in the range of inflexion it attempted: the rhythm of the opening phrase flew away, but the control of vibrato-less tone and the changes of textures at important moments were very clearly thought out, even if imperfectly realized. There is a lot more work to be done, but Miss Koskinen shows some real musical insights.

The most intriguing debut of the week was of a new trio called Chorea, baritone, guitarist and dancer, at the Purcell Room. It is an adventurous notion to combine the art of music and dance on an intimate scale: Christopher Keyte sang Rainier's splendid unaccompanied *Cycle for Dedication* while Vivienne Hamblin danced, and Timothy Walker played a long thin piece, *Arbor*, by Stanley Glasser, while she did the same. I cannot judge the dancing, but Mr Keyte's manner seemed a little stiff, and the quality of too much of the music was very slight indeed.

N.K.

'Now all the youth of England are on fire'

chorus Henry V



Enjoy the excitement and fiery passion of Adrian Noble's truly magnificent production of

HENRY V

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'Kenneth Branagh's Henry: a performance which betokens a rich Shakespearean future for this young actor'

No Henry has ever moved me so much. The Observer
Probably the best version of the play - on its own terms - that I have seen

RSC

Royal Shakespeare Theatre
Stratford-upon-Avon 0789 295623

The kiss of death, survived

At the age of 38, Murray Head is becoming used to the idea that his native Britain has little idea of his present career. At home he is best known as the juvenile lead in John Schlesinger's *Sunday, Bloody Sunday*, playing the sexually ambiguous boy caught between Glenda Jackson and Peter Finch. In France, as a concert in the 15,000-seat Palais Omnisports Bercy in Paris recently showed, Head enjoys all the trappings of rock stardom, even down to the release of canisters of CS gas which represents one of the more bizarre forms of teenage gallic appreciation.

"Vous êtes dans La Manche", a French TV interviewer recently told him, and he does find something faintly odd about straddling two cultures simultaneously. When Head takes to the stage of the Barbican on October 27, playing the Bobby Fischer figure in the first public airing of the new Tim Rice-Abba collaboration, *Chess*, it will be only his third appearance in Britain in eight years, although he now lives in London after a spell spent in the South of France.

Head's links with Tim Rice began in the late 1960s when he was appearing in the original cast of *Hair* and the lyricist and Andrew Lloyd Webber were on 25-a-week retainers. "To Tim and Andrew at the time I was someone close to the street. I had been to a state school, but I also seemed a nice chap. Somewhere I've still got the original tape of Andrew banging away on the piano, very badly, and Tim singing, in a posh voice, 'Jesus Christ, Superstar'".

Head recorded the single. That proved successful enough in America to spawn an album on which he played the role of

Judas, and the Rice-Lloyd Webber partnership took off.

Head says: "It was born in a very relaxed atmosphere. But when it got to America it brought out all the worst elements in everyone concerned and turned into a great big money machine. I refused to speak to both of them for years. They were quoted as saying some horrible things about me coming out of obscurity and going back into it."

About that time, Head auditioned for Schlesinger and found himself thrust into the spotlight with Jackson and Finch. "People kept coming up to me and saying 'You're a star'. I just told them to push off because I knew it wouldn't last and I was right. I didn't get a single script after *Sunday* for two years. The upper heights of Hollywood are pretty chauvinist and I think their cigars just dropped at the salient point where poor old Peter kissed me."

Today, after 10 films, Head regards the Schlesinger film with some affection. "It was the only time I was directed properly", Head says. "I kept asking for something to chew on, but Schlesinger said: 'I'm sorry, that's the way it is. You're the fulcrum. I'm more interested in the other characters'."

He gave up films in 1978 after making *Madame Claude* with Just Jacklin, who directed *Emmanuelle*. "I needed the money and Just said it was really a film about scandals. I bought that - I'm very naive that way. I went to see it in a cinema in Paris, then I looked at the clientele - a bunch of people in raincoats. And that was that."

The success of Head's music, sophisticated and intensely European, backed up by a highly theatrical road show, has revived the stream of scripts, but Head is reluctant to return to the screen. "I'm slightly sickened by the number of French film stars who now want

to make albums. Isabelle Adjani has just had a show of her own. Gerard Depardieu is desperate to make an album. Isabelle Huppert wants me to write for her. I'm getting bored with the three or five minute song. The hardest thing is simplicity. If you get that, I suppose you end up with something like *halikku*, a four-line poem you have to keep on repeating."

The immediate future means a European tour of *Chess* and a recording contract with Virgin, but Head feels he has been around too long to look for instant rewards. "My basic problem in life is that I believe in something old-fashioned called a career. If you're maintaining a career you have to be very careful of stardom and everything it represents. The thing is allied to fashionability and I've avoided that all my life because it means one minute you're up and the next you're down. But I find it great that I'm still here 13 years after *Jesus Christ Superstar*."

Spanning the Channel: Murray Head.

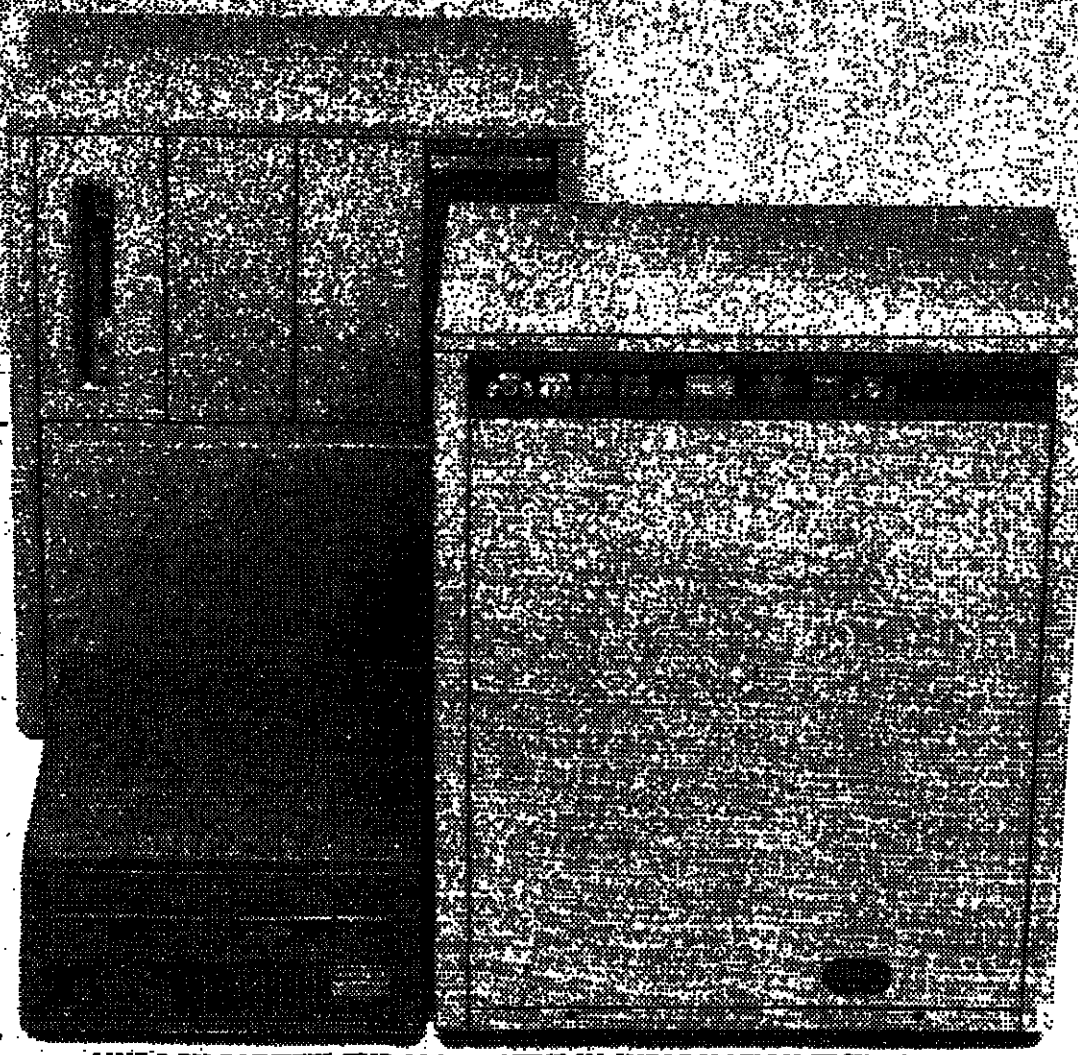
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Successful tax avoidance plan

Conlon (Inspector of Taxes) v Blacklaws
Before Mr Justice Peter Gibson
(Judgment delivered October 10)

A New Zealand dentist providing general dental services for the National Health Service in the United Kingdom had succeeded in securing for himself the 50 per cent "foreign emoluments" deduction that was made available to schedule E taxpayers by paragraph 3 of Schedule 2 to the Finance Act 1972 and section 181(1) of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970. The special commissioners had been entitled to conclude that Mr Douglas Blacklaws had provided dental services for the NHS in the United Kingdom in 1975, and that he was entitled to the relief afforded to schedule E taxpayers by paragraph 3 of Schedule 2 to the Finance Act 1972.

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Mr Blacklaws' appeal against the 1975-76 schedule D assessment was made on the basis that from April 1, 1975, he no longer worked on his own account but carried out his dental work as an employee of the company in Panama. Thus he said that as a non-resident he was entitled to the relief afforded to schedule E taxpayers by paragraph 3 of Schedule 2 to the Finance Act 1972.

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Yoga centre exempt from VAT

Yoga for Health Foundation v Commissioners for Customs & Excise
Before Mr Justice Nolan
(Judgment delivered October 11)

The supply of services by providing for consideration accommodation at a residential centre at which the study and practice of yoga was carried on were supplies which were exempt from value-added tax by virtue of article 13 A(1)(g) of the Sixth EEC Directive (77/388/EEC).

Mr Justice Nolan so held when allowing an appeal by the Yoga for Health Foundation against the decision of a VAT tribunal that the supplies of residential accommodation and of courses of instruction by the foundation at their residential centre were supplies chargeable to VAT.

Mr David Milne for the foundation, Mr John Laws for the commissioners.

MR JUSTICE NOLAN said that the foundation, a registered charity, operated a residential centre at which well known yoga teachers gave instruction in the practice of yoga. The centre was not a place of instruction in the practice of yoga.

Most of the centre's income was derived from the supply of residential accommodation to students. The centre was not a place of instruction in the practice of yoga.

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Libel possible in conciliation proceedings

Tadd v Eastwood and Another
Before Lord Justice Evershed, Mr Justice O'Connor and Mr Justice Eastman
(Judgment delivered October 11)

It was not an implied term of a national conciliation proceedings agreement set up between the Newspaper Publishers Association and the Institute of Journalists that a party to conciliation would not be liable for libel to any other person involved in the proceedings.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by *The Daily Telegraph* from Mr Justice Hirst's decision (*The Times* May 28, 1983) in favour of the plaintiff, William Tadd, former news editor of the newspaper.

Mr Justice Hirst had found in an action for libel brought by Tadd against the first defendant, Mr Peter Eastwood, managing editor of the newspaper.

No appeal had been brought against Mr Justice Hirst's decision on one of the preliminary issues, namely his finding that evidence adduced during such proceedings was not subject to absolute privilege and was therefore potentially actionable.

In 1979 a dispute had arisen between the Institute of Journalists and *The Daily Telegraph* concerning the newspaper's refusal to accept the terms of a proposed conciliation agreement.

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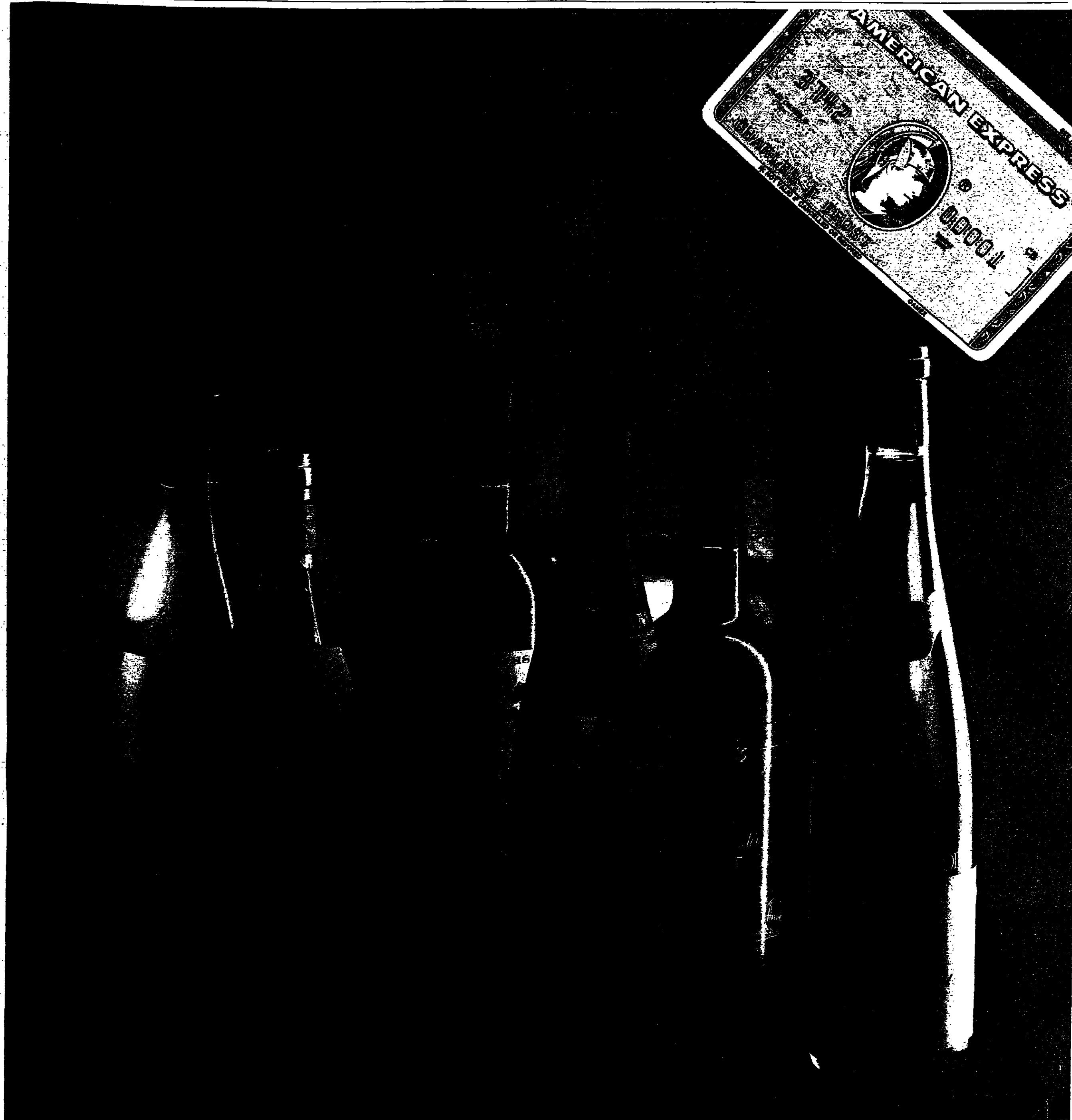
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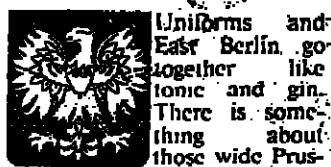


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In part two of his series on Eastern Europe

How a growing generation gap threatens the leadership

How the young are making a monolith



Uniforms and East Berlin go together like tonic and gin. There is something about those wide Prussian boulevards, in Berlin-Mitte that demands appropriate clothing: the stance of rank, the clatter of weaponry and a disciplined approach to living.

On a recent Monday night, as wet and steamy as a bathhouse, I stood outside the Opera Cafe in Unter den Linden thinking about uniforms.

It was the time of the week when local party secretaries hold pop sessions for the faithful, set new tasks in the building of socialism, collect the dues, criticize the backsliders.

None of this deterred the queue outside the cafe. The sign said: "Please wait, you will be placed." In front of me, wearing black capulettes, a brown-grey blouse, a peaked cap and boots that aured ill for the dance floor, stood a soldier from the national Volkarmee.

Next to him, wearing black lipstick, hair modelled into hedgehog spikes, a slashed T-shirt and leopardskin trousers, stood a punk.

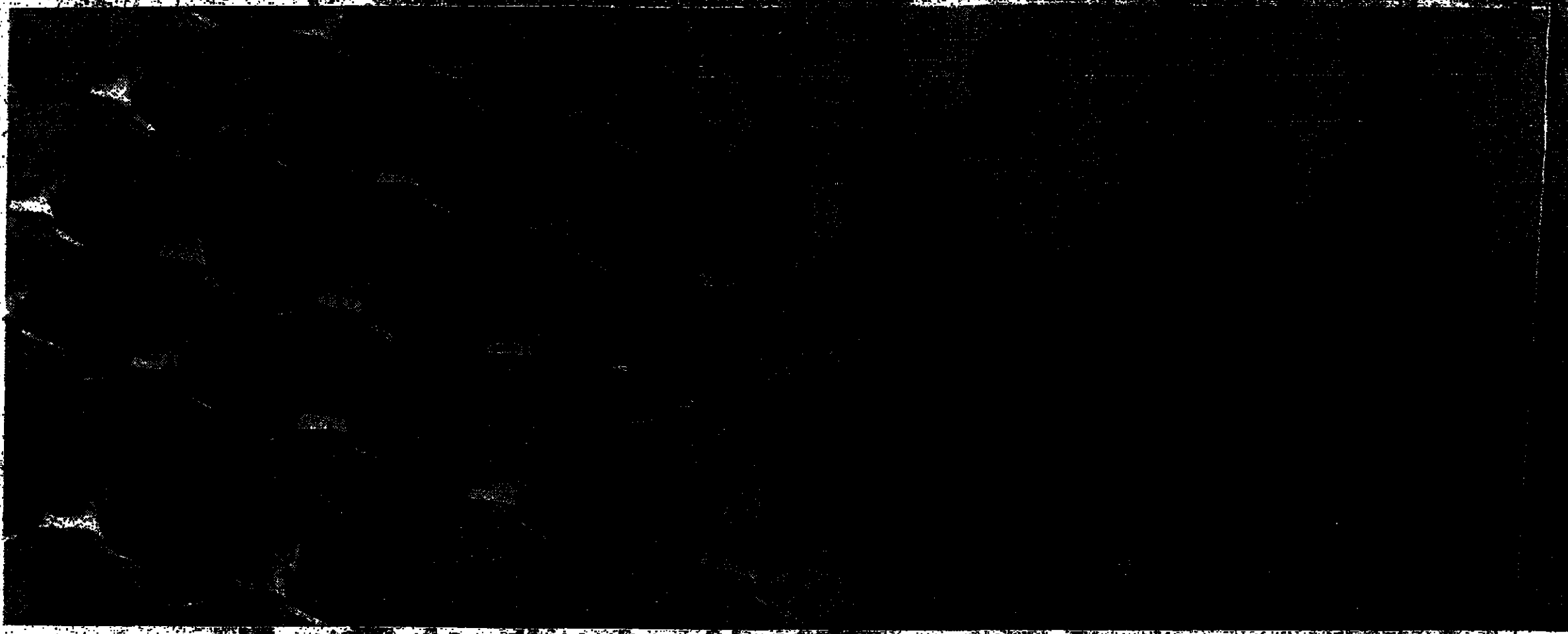
"Have you got a light?" asked the soldier with the abruptness of the lightly drunk.

"Are you crazy, man, do you want to kill yourself?" said the punk and slapped the cigarette, perhaps accidentally, out of his hand. "Nicotine kills. Give it up."

There was no fight, just the pushing of puppets, but the queue scattered like snooker balls to different parts of the table.

The soldier and the punk were probably the same age, both spoke with a Berlin accent, their parents may have been neighbours, both wore uniforms, though their tribal markings were different.

Seeking general conclusions about the youth of Eastern Europe is difficult but the attempt must be made. The kids are the *apparatchiks* of the



future, the planners, the leaders, and the tank commanders. What links the "hedgehogs" of Poland, the sleek western mechanics of Bulgaria, the police and the conscripts is a sense of relative prosperity and shared resentment—a security, a social welfare mentality that is rarely understood by their fathers and grandfathers.

A 30-year-old was not born when the "squalid post-war compromises" were being made. He missed the worst of the arrests and interrogations, was not arrested, was not rehabilitated, lived through no war, spent

his childhood in a secure, comfortable environment. But the young are not the products of their parents. The punk may be a product of unemployment or about materialist goals, but the East punk is protesting about the fact that he is not allowed to leave the country, that he has to do military service.

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Bob Dylan, the young of his elders' growing conservatism. They demand the Government to be more liberal, to allow them to leave the country, to allow them to do military service.

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THE CREATIVE CHEMICAL COMPANY WORLDWIDE

The first is the appearance today of a study, the social and environmental effects of large dams. The second is the tenth annual report of the International Institute for Environment and Development, a think-tank founded 13 years ago by the late Barbara Ward to help an eye on some of the indignities perpetrated in the name of progress by men on each other and on their habitat. The report shows the Institute as rather longer on scholarship than on showbusiness, and its finances as only slightly less parlous than the budgets of the poorer countries in which it operates.

Its first words, once the formal introductions and tributes are out of the way, are interesting: "Where the Ambuklao Dam in the Philippines was first built in 1956, it was expected to meet the water needs of the area for 60 years. By 1979, the build-up of silt in the reservoir had reduced the expected lifetime of Ambuklao to just 32 years. What went wrong?"

"Hillsides around the reservoir had been stripped of their trees as farmers searched for new fields; the barren land, unprotected by any shelter belts or by terraces that would have taken valuable time to build, eroded. The reservoir below soon filled with sediment."

The Ambuklao is but one striking example among many of development projects gone awry. The *Social and Environmental Effects of Large Dams*, by Edward Goldsmith and Nicholas Hildyard, adds about 400 more.

If the Institute is going to change the world it will be in the way of all institutes, slowly and by degrees. The impact of

large dams is not new. The first dam was built in 1956, it was expected to meet the water needs of the area for 60 years. By 1979, the build-up of silt in the reservoir had reduced the expected lifetime of Ambuklao to just 32 years. What went wrong?

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CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 472)

ACROSS

1 German POW camp (6)

2 Manage (4)

3 Enlighten (5)

4 Herd (5,2)

5 US hydrant (4,4)

6 Race with wind (4)

7 Awkward (13)

8 Amusement (4)

9 Abstruse (8)

10 Backside (7)

11 King-shaped roll (10)

12 Breeding station (4)

13 Old age (6)

14 Attempt (3)

15 Onward (3)

16 Loquaciousness (13)

17 Hint (4)

18 Passenger vehicle (7)

19 Let it stand (4)

20 Went quickly (4)

21 King Arthur's seat (3)

22 Prohibit (3)

23 Twiddle

24 Sense

25 Down

26 Tip off

27 Glide

28 Time bomb

29 Prince of Wales's Oxide

30 Domicile

31 Down

32 Painless

33 Luggage

34 Bright

35 Grody

36 Full

LONDON FASHION by Suzy Menkes

All the new that's fit to print

Fashion fireworks exploded last weekend in a shower of pattern and print. The London collections drew an international audience not seen in town since the swollen-headed sixties.

Those locust-fashion years were remembered too in the sexual charge that ran like a rock beat through the young designer shows, and in the focus on inferior fabrics such as shimmering satin and panne velvet, and in the original, colourful and sometimes menacing prints.

Pop music stars are now the ultimate catch and cachet for the fashion shows: Boy George in black jacket, brocade trousers, schoolboy sandals and his new wild black hair, with blond Marvin in the audience at Body Map; a live steel band and Frankie Goes To Hollywood viewing Katharine Hammett's protest T-shirts.

Body Map went for stretch and cling, shimmer and shine. That meant, for both sexes, stretchy skirts and leggings, laced with a frilled apron of high gloss vinyl or a wet-look nylon cire blouse. Corsets of man-made stretch swimsuits with holes cut out in rude places (and strategically placed phosphorescent transfers), shrunken knits in sour colours and jackets made from quilted nylon eiderdowns, all played a wicked game of good taste versus bad.

All the best fashion shows had a strong male presence, with the outrageous designers sending their clothes out indiscriminately on either sex.

Androgynous themes were played out more subtly among the established designers, with Wendy Dagworthy putting her Pretty Boy pinks and blues in mixed Liberty prints and stripes and Betty Jackson, in a splendid collection, showing all the new that's fit to print: brilliantly coloured crewel-embroidered jackets, a bold bleeding rose print (by Brian Bolger of The Cloth) for giant shirts and brush stroke abstracts.

Jasper Conran showed menswear for the first time. The loose long jacket worn with shirts in openwork tray cloth linen or sixties revival printed chiffon, had an upbeat effect on his entire collection, which absorbed, for the first time, the street style of his own generation, while keeping a sense of sharp cut and tailoring.

Paul Costelloe is rooted in menswear and the fresh, soft colours of his native Irish landscape. His linen coats (with the new high sheen), madras and ikat checked jackets cut like pyjamas worn loose, were effective for both sexes, with the edge, perhaps, on menswear.

The colours, textures and body shapes in London had a new vibrancy. But in another sense too, London let it all hang out. The shirt, and especially the hanging shirt tail that has become a street motif, made the fashion shape of the season.

Roland Klein had the best of the sophisticated shirts in every length from the hips, growing down to an above-the-knee three-quarter jacket to an ankle-grazing dressing gown coat in a delicious peach and coral with an abstract pattern.

Sheridan Barnett had the simple pyjamas (best in a



Photographs by HARRY KERR

paisley print on cotton) and the big shapes that looked newest in strong colours such as red or pink with orange and in rayon, that is taking over from silk now that synthetic fabrics are high fashion.

You could argue that there are fashion designers in London and there is Katharine Hammett. Her followers (and she is offering a philosophy rather than fashion) sought to get into her show, applauded fervently and wept at the end. In an uncompromising strong show, the high priestess of save-the-world and save-on-the-ironing had a tribal message: clear Pacific colours from sunrise yellow to sunset violet, a leaf green to lagoon blue; shirts and T-shirts in every dimension.

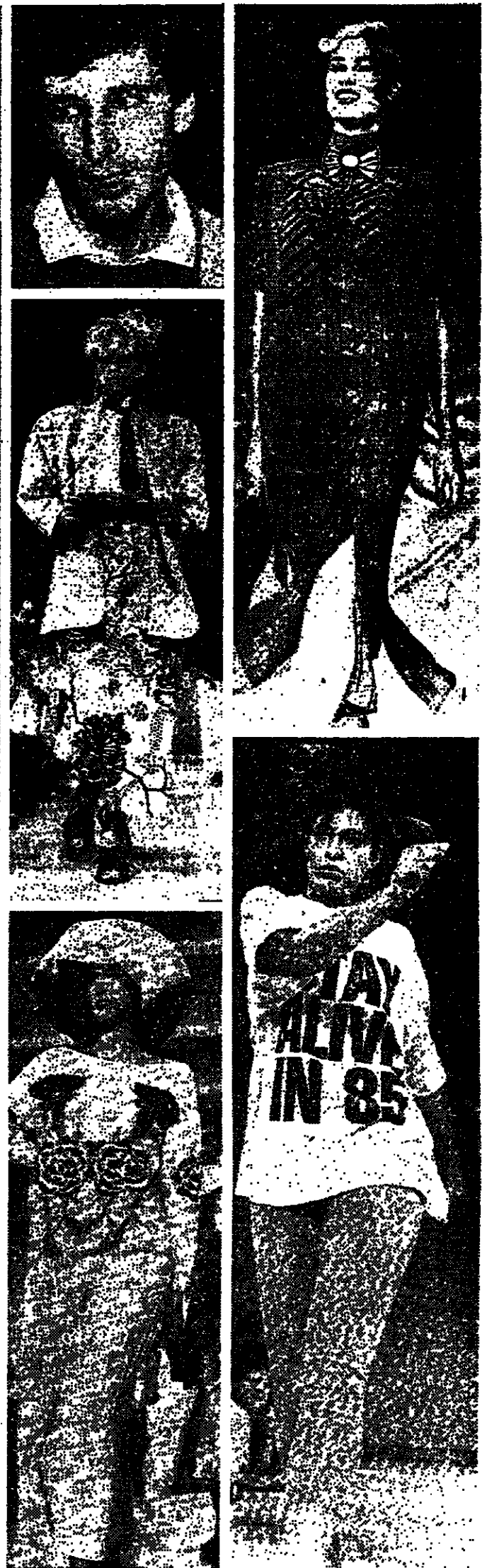
The other strand in London fashion is the lady-like, pretty clothes that are more readily understandable by people outside the inner fashion sanctum. These are the designers who take their colours from lingerie — peach, cream, aquamarine.

Their touch of something shocking is a panell skirt that opens in petals to the thigh. Their frame of reference is the twenties and their patron saint is the Princess of Wales.

Benay Ong played the most successful tune with pretty clothes, especially his white tucked cottons over a coloured undershirt. The Emanuel colour it pastel. Janice Wainwright painted her pretty kimono dresses in alarming shades of chrome yellow and pimento.

John McIntyre was the surprise of Fashion Week, showing a mature and well thought-out collection made to a standard not always in evidence among the newer London designers. He took a Bondi Beach theme and played it out with sarong wrap skirts, printed with hibiscus flowers. There was one shining star of the London season. It came on a roller, is measured in metres and is making fabric the fashion message.

Above: Betty Jackson's stunning mix of pattern and print with bleeding rose in lacquer red, sunflower yellow and black on white. The long full skirt, often dropped to the hips, is an important shape for next spring. Rose print by Brian Bolger of The Cloth. Top right: Sebastian Coe at the show of Barbara de Vries who took boy scout shorts, lanyards and tents as a witty theme for snappy sporty separates, made in ICI 'Tactel'. John McIntyre's Bondi Beach sarong skirt with hibiscus flower print on oatmeal linen and mannish suit jacket and tie. Worn with wild raffia textured hair. Zandra Rhodes' bow-tie dress striped in slimline crepe de chine, with seductive panell hem. Her new print in based on the bow in a contrasting palette of pastel shades or bold black and red. Katharine Hammett's anti-drug message on an Orange People silk T-shirt. She wore it to the British Fashion Council ball to receive her award as Most Influential Fashion Designer of the year. Artwork's broken pillar and flower rocco print on knit with long line cabled cotton skirt. Cornflower blue and lemon print by Timney Fowler.



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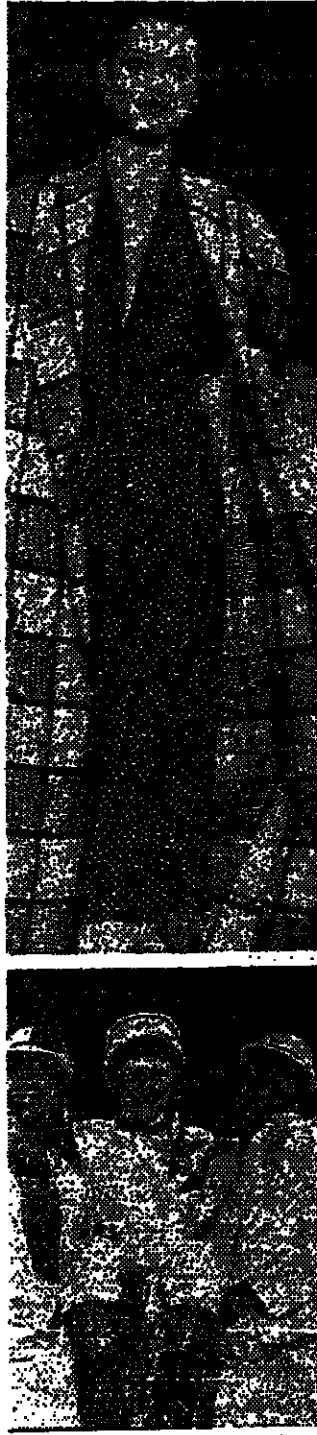
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The Winter Collection 1984 at the new shops

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Top: Body Map's underwear is outerwear. Turquoise and red checked interlock leggings and corset shorts, cut tight and filled to emphasise the body's "cosmic curves". Everything is fit and stretch - especially the rubber skull cap. Boy George posing with Body Map print programme and pop star friend Marilyn. Yuki's strong white shirt dress with a bold belt. Centre: Jasper Conran's hippie revival printed chiffon shirt and tailored navy and red checked pants suit, worn androgynously. Above: Roland Klein's elongated coat in navy and white winduppane shirt dress with a bold belt. Bathrobe dress, softly wrapped. Wendy Dagworthy's Liberty chintz with woven stripe in Pretty Boy colours, pale pink and baby blue. The big vest with high neckline and wide T-top are the clean lines for next spring. Willie Carson cheering on Arabella Pollen's emerald and royal blue racing silks.

FASHFLASH

New from Jean Muir: colour and bright knits, trousers and abstract-patterned cashmere from the designer who made her name and dressed herself in navy jersey. Infected by the students she helps and serves, Miss Muir came out (in the show and in person) with brush strokes of colour and plant-front trousers. Chrome yellow and poster paint red were strong.

Olympia 2 was the all-white background for the most colorful (and most crowded) stage London has yet seen. Abstract prints on silk and vest shapes hand-knitting both made new at the London Designer Collections. The Murjani-sponsored Designer Forum tents at the Commonwealth Institute played host to an incoming wave of American press and buyers.

Murray Arbeid had the biggest rocks (from M Gérard) and the only rolled hems in town for his delicious floating chiffon ombre dresses. Zandra Rhodes was on fine form with a vintage collection, a good new bow print, stunning carapaces of platinum beading and Norman Parkinson at her party.

Yuki was out on his own with his inimitable draped and pleated dresses in a touching show dedicated to twenties beauty Lady Diana Cooper, watching the slim swatches of white from under her feathered hat.

David Hicks has found a new designer in Nigel Harris and a longer, fluid line. Arabella Pollen showed sharp lines, lost the plot in a sarong skirt and brought out curvaceous racing silks and a show-stopping bow-legged Willie Carson.

Artwork led London's mighty knitters through their rocco print (by Timney Fowler) of broken balustrades and cherubic statues, glimpsed through a trellis.

Grey hair appeared at the shows - and not just on the frazzled fashion crowd who took in 25 shows in three days. Spray grey frosting was what they wore at Body Map (both sexes).

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THE TIMES DIARY

Turning a new volume

Tom Rosenthal, who as I revealed quit as chairman of both Secker and Warburg and Heinemann three weeks ago, is to become joint chairman and managing director of Andre Deutsch - his rival of 20 years. Rosenthal broke the news yesterday after summoning me cloak-and-dagger style to a London address. There, behind a great desk was the diminutive Deutsch - "There will be no official announcement. We wanted to break it through your column. It is a historic moment," Rosenthal explained he wanted to get back into small private publishing. "We should make quite a powerful team." Asked how these two larger-than-life Central European Jewish emigrants could even conceive working in harmony, Deutsch said: "No problem. I have bought the house next door."

Indeed only the doors will connect to Deutsch's empire. "And I have no intentions of retiring. I'm good for another 10 years," said the 66-year-old Deutsch. "Neither of us have any illusions about each other," said Rosenthal. "We will both tolerate the quirks." Then, as the meeting degenerated into something more reminiscent of a *Little and Large* show, Deutsch took one look at the red shirt and yellow bowtie on the enormous Rosenthal. "And the exuberances..."

Free-wheeling

For Derek Hutton, Liverpool Council's hard-left Militant-supporting deputy leader, public transport is clearly not good enough. Nor is his A-reg Volvo. He is now often seen being collected from his Thingwall Road home in Liverpool's Wavertree district in the morning - and leaving City Hall at night - in a council limousine driven by a chauffeur called Cyril D'Arcy. D'Arcy, it transpires, began work last month as the council's fifth chauffeur, is responsible for driving council committee chairman around, and will cost Liverpool's beleaguered ratepayers some £3,000 a year. His appointment, and a decision to install a radio in the car, were authorized during the summer break by the chairman and deputy of the personnel committee using their delegated powers. The chairman's name? Derek Hutton.

No stone unturned

No slack security in Northern Ireland yesterday, particularly after the Brighton bombing. When Northern Ireland secretary Douglas Hurd opened a new bakery in Bangor, Co. Down, the plaque he unveiled carried no mention of the place, time, or date of the ceremony. This, said one of Hurd's scolding "chevies", is common practice nowadays. It prevents premature disclosure - through plaque makers - of ministerial movements. The relevant details are added later.

BARRY FANTONI



"How do you want your goose liver paté - with chips or mushy peas?"

Thrust and cut

The minority-championing GLC is heading towards a legal clash with the Board of Deputies of British Jews. At the weekend the board, headed by Labour MP Greville Janner, secretly observed a GLC-sponsored Palestine Solidarity Campaign Conference in London. The board has now written to the district auditor - who monitors local government spending - asking for the £3,000 grant from the council's minorities unit to be reclaimed. Hayim Pinner, the board's general secretary, said yesterday he would not let the matter drop. "The conference had nothing to do with London or promoting racial harmony in London - on the contrary we feel it will have promoted racial disharmony."

● In any other country there would be allegations of nepotism. The new Palace of Westminster directory, just out, reveals the refreshment department is staffed by M. Thatcher.

Confidentially...

Environment minister Kenneth Baker will appear relaxed and assured in BBC-TV's recorded debate with Ken Livingstone being broadcast tonight; but his mood did not last. As the adversarial Lime Grove after the recording, Baker suddenly flipped and turned ashen. "My God, I've left my blue files," he cried, despatching two flunkies to hunt for them in the studio. So that's how leaks spring.

PHS

Dublin The Provisional IRA takes a dangerous interest in symbols. In addition to Mrs Thatcher, the focus of renewed Irish republican hatred after the hunger strikes of 1981, its hit list almost certainly includes the Queen. She is the most potent symbol of the union between Northern Ireland and mainland Britain which Republicans wish to end.

The aims of any IRA operation mounted in Britain are twofold. The first is to increase the weariness of the British public with the whole sorry mess in Northern Ireland and so build political pressure for ending the union. Every opinion poll taken in Britain since the present troubles started has shown a majority in favour of withdrawal from the province. Politicians bravely maintain that the Brighton bomb will strengthen British resolve not to give way to terrorists. In the short term this is almost certainly true. But the long-term effect on public opinion is more difficult to assess. It may increase the number of people who want to be rid of the Irish problem once and for all.

Just as important to the IRA are the effects of such an operation in Northern Ireland itself and in the United States, which remains a major source of funds. For some time now there has been a public perception in both places that the IRA is "going soft". In pursuing the strategy of the "Armalite and the ballot box" it has seemed lately that the gun has taken second place to courting political popularity. Spectacular bombings, like Friday's attack on Mrs Thatcher and her colleagues, are particularly effective in showing that the IRA still has the capacity and the will to strike at the heart of the British establishment.

Danny Morrison, the Sinn Féin spokesman, has already explained that if the bombing had resulted in the death of the Prime Minister and

After Brighton what next for Belfast?

by Mary Holland

several members of her cabinet it would probably have led to draconian security measures in Northern Ireland. Past experience has shown that this always leads to increased support for the terrorists.

IRA agents on the British mainland are resourceful and resilient. It is a dangerous error to brand them as "mindless maniacs". One expert in international terrorism has compared them to British agents operating behind enemy lines during the last war. They are the elite corps in the campaign of violence directed at achieving a complete British withdrawal from Northern Ireland. Leaders of Sinn Féin, who are associated in the public mind with the Provisionals' recent involvement in electoral politics, have always been explicit on this point: continued violence will be necessary to achieve their aim of a united Ireland.

Over the past few months the contradictions involved in trying to build a popular political base extending beyond their own hard-core supporters, while at the same time pursuing a terrorist campaign, have become much more evident. The Catholic minority in Northern Ireland, whose vote Sinn Féin seeks, does not support the bomb and the bullet. Any atrocities, whether in Ireland or England, risk alienating

them and losing their vote. Inevitably this has led to considerable tension between those who want to build up Sinn Féin as a grassroots political party and those who want to maintain the IRA's high and violent profile.

The result has been a growing disenchantment among the Provisionals with the involvement in constitutional politics. Over the past few weeks Gerry Adams and Danny Morrison of Provisional Sinn Féin have both given remarkably frank interviews admitting to these internal tensions. First there is a perception within the Republican movement that scaling down the IRA's activities to court popular support in Northern Ireland has helped the British government to claim that the security situation in the province is now much better than it has been for a number of years.

As important has been the political fallout. Dissidents within the IRA claim, with some justification, that the main effect of their venturing into politics has been to help their main opponents, the moderate nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party, led by John Hume. They argue that it is only since Sinn Féin began to win elections - and particularly since Gerry Adams displaced Gerry Fitt as

MP for West Belfast - that the British government has started to take seriously the alienation of the Catholic minority.

They point to such developments as the establishment of the New Ireland Forum in Dublin, the more conciliatory attitudes of Unionist parties in Belfast and to closer relations between the Dublin and London governments. All these, they claim, are a direct result of a common desire to stave off the threat of Sinn Féin as a political force.

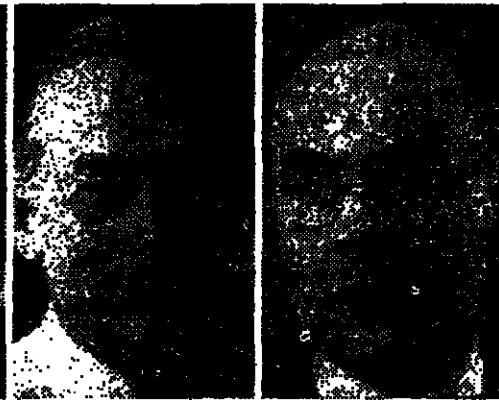
From the Provisionals' point of view the Brighton bombing can already be assessed as a dramatic success. It will rally support in the ranks at home and, as important, in the United States. It will scotch soft-wipe out the memory of recent humiliations, such as the seizure of a cargo of weapons from a fishing boat off the coast of Kerry last month.

The political impact is harder to assess. In the immediate aftermath of the bombing, politicians on both sides of the Irish Sea were swift to emphasize that it would, if anything, bring the governments in Dublin and London closer in their search for political progress in Northern Ireland. There is a brutal irony in this. In recent weeks there has been growing anxiety in Dublin that the miners' strike had taken over British politics to such an extent that any hopes of movement on Northern Ireland would be put aside.

For most of last week Irish diplomats were in Brighton trying to persuade Conservative MPs of the need for closer Anglo-Irish cooperation on a political initiative in the North. Now it seems that an IRA bomb has succeeded where peaceful argument and persuasion might well have been doomed to failure. Last Friday's appalling attack has forced Northern Ireland back on to the British political agenda.

Findhorn factor: David Nicholson-Lord on the New Economics

The big guns backing Mr Small



The late E. F. Schumacher (left) whose 'small is beautiful' creed has aroused unlikely interest. Sir Peter Parker (ex-BR) took part in a recent Findhorn-style seminar; Clive Thornton (ex-Abbey National), David Plasterock (Vickers) and Sir Jeremy Morse (Lloyds Bank) are among senior executives favouring a 'new initiative' to make work more worthwhile and personally satisfying

The new economists are on the move. Up to 300 "steady-state", decentralists and dedicated opponents of money fetishism are getting together this week in the Universal Hall overlooking the beautiful Findhorn Bay in north Scotland to discuss the impending demise of economics.

The Findhorn Foundation, which is convening the week-long conference on The New Economic Agenda provides an odd but appropriate setting. The foundation describes itself as a "New Age" organization and has a penchant for causes that have all the appearance of being forlorn if not lost: this time last year it ran the World Wilderness Congress.

It began life 22 years ago when its founders, an out-of-work hotel manager, his wife and secretary, took up residence in a caravan park, started a garden and found they could grow, inexplicably, gigantic vegetables. Forty-pound cabbages are still talked of with awe.

From such unlikely beginnings have come impressive ends. The foundation is now a community of some 200 people, living in the caravan park, which it owns, and their founder's old hotel, Cluny Hill, which it has converted into a training college.

More to the present point, the foundation is a material success. It runs profitable educational and publishing ventures, attracts 6,000 visitors a year who add some £2m to the balance of payments - the estimates are the Scottish Tourist Board's - and has achieved a turnover of over £500,000.

The message lies in Findhorn's prosperity, which gives more than a few crumbs of comfort for those assembling this week. The New Economics, it seems, can be made to work. The Findhorn gatherings include visits from a surprising selection of Britain's most powerful industrialists.

The people and ideas forming the vanguard of New Economics, which owes such fame or notoriety as it possesses chiefly to the impact of E. F. Schumacher, have been scratching in the wilderness of society for a decade and more, mainly in that

region known as the Alternative Culture.

In June, for example, they took on the Old Economists - in the shape of the heads of government of the Western world - in what was bruited as a clash of mighty opposites. While the economic summit was moving ponderously towards its widely predicted climax at Lancaster House, around the corner at the Royal Overseas League, The Other Economic Summit was battling ideas about with a vigour and élan born, it has to be said, of total lack of power.

Toes, as it was known, was the first venture of its type, cost £20,000 to mount - speakers came from as far afield as Chile, India and the United States - and issued a communiqué calling for more small-scale, conservationist technologies, greater local self-reliance and industrial participation, more popular access to land and a writing off of Third World debt. "The very nature of the large-scale mass industrial system," it pronounced, "has become economically and politically insupportable to people of the whole planet."

Most people of the planet, however, did not get to hear of it. With a few exceptions - such as an Australian television reporter who sought intellectual refuge there from Lancaster House - media coverage was sparse.

Paul Ekins, Toes' organizing secretary, admits to disappointment at the lack of impact but is taking comfort from several developments. The proceedings are to be published in book form, a journal of new economics is contemplated and research is beginning to lend credence to ideas that have long resembled articles of faith rather than canons of economic law. Moreover, Toes is to become an annual event.

The espousal of a "steady-state" economy, in preference to what one American academic at Toes inelegantly stigmatized as "terminal hyper-growth mania", is usually attacked as heralding a return to the Stone Age. But Dutch government projections presented at Toes indicate that giving priority to environmental and energy-saving measures

would produce GNP growth of 27 per cent between 1980 and the year 2000, only 2 per cent less than that produced by conventional economic policies.

The unsung prophets of the New Economics are meanwhile acquiring some powerful allies. Speakers at this week's Findhorn conference include Peter Schwartz, chief planner with Royal Dutch Shell International. A similar seminar last week was attended by John Harvey-Jones, chairman of ICI, and Sir Peter Parker, formerly of British Rockware.

Last year Francis Kinsman, a Findhorn participant, interviewed 30 senior managers on the need for a "new initiative," stressing the human and social requirements of work, as part of an exercise for Spencer Stuart Management Consultants. He found, he says, a "remarkable" level of agreement from such figures as Harvey-Jones, Parker, Sir Jeremy Morse, chairman of Lloyds Bank, David Plasterock, chief executive of Vickers, and Clive Thornton, formerly of the Abbey National Building Society. "These people have to think in the long term," says Kinsman. "The debate at government level is still totally sterile."

Most important of all, perhaps, the New Economics may already be upon us. "The future," says Sheila Rothwell, director of the centre for employment policy studies at the Management College, Henley, and another Toes speaker, "has in fact begun." For years figures like James Robertson, Charles Handy and Barrie Sherman, have been predicting fundamental changes in patterns of work: predictions frequently viewed by critics as exercises in Utopianism rather than futurology.

As evidence that these are starting to come true Rothwell lists the growth in the informal or "black" economy, more varied working hours, increases in home and part-time work and in work done for the community.

Another example is Rank-Xerox's Xanadu scheme in which managers became contractors rather than employees, taking their computer

terminals home, working three days a week and saving the company overheads estimated at three times their salary.

Such initiatives carry risks but also confer freedoms. Kinsman calls it the "privatization of the private sector."

A "new local economic order" is also emerging, according to Guy Dauncey, a founder member of the British Unemployment Resource Network. It consists of enterprise trusts and boards, cooperative development agencies, community businesses and workshops, science parks and a host of related developments which point to the end of the multi-national "branch economy". Most people are not aware of it because it is so fragmented, he says. But it shares many of the aspirations of Thatcherism.

Joblessness has acted as the catalyst for many of these initiatives. It consists of enterprise trusts and boards, cooperative development agencies, community businesses and workshops, science parks and a host of related developments which point to the end of the multi-national "branch economy". Most people are not aware of it because it is so fragmented, he says. But it shares many of the aspirations of Thatcherism.

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The potential of such market areas is phenomenal, according to Giles Chitty, chief executive of The Financial Initiative, a master of business administration from Columbia University and a former industrial adviser to the Indonesian government. Chitty, who is also a trustee and former resident of Findhorn, adds: "We are a drop in the ocean now. But our feeling is that the only kind of investments that are going to pay off in any sense, let alone financially, have got to take account of the major shift in aspirations happening in society now. It is not going to be a revolution. It is going to be an evolution."

It is the latest of Perry's munificences. It is one of them; if one of them, it must have been given before now; but it is in fact given now not before now; which is absurd. QED.

The other superlative rule that was whacked into us by Old Chalky, but has now faded from common usage, is that the superlative is only for three or more persons or things; for two persons or things, use the comparative. Thus: "Zola Bulb is the faster runner of the two." But "He is the cleverest boy in the whole class." As for former and latter, they are right out of fashion, and are beginning to sound quaint.

Not all these superlative distinctions are of the first importance, which is why they are fading from English grammar. But anything that reduces the flexibility of the language impoverishes us all. And superlative mistakes that produce illogicality must be a bad thing, and annoy your readers.

Roger Scruton

Investing in the unthinkable

Anyone who studies the history of arms control negotiations with the Soviet Union is likely to be struck by a sense of unreality. From the first days it has been Soviet policy to make agreements unverifiable, and to break them with impunity; to vilify the West for the deployment of every new weapon, while secretly deploying the same weapon itself; to sign international conventions which tie our hands, while proceeding to ignore those conventions when interest requires; and to encourage vociferous and independent "peace movements" in the West, while ruthlessly liquidating them at home.

Observing this, and observing too the frank and often repeated pronouncements of the Soviet leadership (typified by Andropov's Lenin Day Speech in 1982, in which he reaffirmed "the triumph of the communist cause: the victory of communism throughout the world"), I am reminded of Max Frisch's play *The Fire Raisers*. During a period when house after house is being destroyed by arson, two men insinuate themselves into a suburban household, refer in jocular and enthusiastic tones to its combustible potential, and politely ask for a place to store their fuses, incendiary devices and drums of petrol. Not wishing to confront them, or in any way to break the routine of complacency whereby they live, the householders meekly comply with their desires, telling themselves whatever comforting untruths can be hastily improvised in answer to each new development.

The effect of Frisch's play is most disturbing. By the end you can hardly keep yourself from leaping on to the stage and tearing at the cocoon of falsehood. At the same time, you know that, however loudly you shout, you will not be understood, and that it is, in the end, who will be led away as a lunatic.

Even so, it is necessary to tell the truth, if only for conscience's sake, if only in order to dissociate oneself from the criminal complacency of one's surrounding world. Consider, then, the Soviet deployment of chemical weapons - weapons which first brought home the character of modern warfare. Repeated attempts to prevent the deployment of these weapons, culminating in the American unilateral renunciation of their use in 1969, have made no impact whatever on the Soviet Union, which has continued to manufacture, to deploy, and even to use these weapons, in ways and quantities which have only one plausible explanation: that the Soviet Union intends to use them in Europe, when the opportunity occurs.

The facts are set out by Manfred Hammit, in an alarming pamphlet, *Manfred Hammit, Chemical Warfare, The Growing Threat to Europe, Institute for European Defence and Strategic Studies, price £2.50.*

Peter Kellner

When ignorance is amiss

There is something peculiarly British about the Belgrano scandal. In Washington it takes a petty burglary to put the head of government on the rack; in Paris bribery by an African head of state; in Rome threats by the Mafia. We behave differently. Our scandals tend to be subtler. As a result we tend not to notice them until it is too late.

Only now is the true character of the Belgrano scandal becoming clear. It is not just about the merits of sinking the ship, or even the fact that Mrs Thatcher has kept changing her story about what happened, although both things are appalling. At the heart of the matter is something more enduring than the deceptions that ministers have practised on the public: it is the way ministers themselves were deceived.

Mrs Thatcher claimed recently that she was not told until five months after the Falklands war ended that the Belgrano was sunk while sailing towards home. To forestall the obvious question - why was she not told? - she argues that the ship's precise course was "irrelevant". The next day Lord Lewin, Chief of the Defence Staff, during the Falklands campaign, partly contradicted her. He said that ministers were told verbally of the change of course, "but because it was not important it did not sink in."

As any aficionado of *Yes Minister* knows - and Mrs Thatcher claims to be the programme's greatest fan - the key to the relationship between ministers and their advisers is the flow of information. When Sir Humphrey Appleby persuades the luckless Jim Hacker not to be bothered with some fact because it is "irrelevant" or "not important", the viewer knows something fishy is happening.

In the case of the Belgrano, the fishiness turns on the contradictory statement by John Nott, the Defence Secretary, two days after the Belgrano was sunk. He said the ship needed to be attacked because it "was closing in on elements of our task force". That this was untrue is no longer in doubt. What is at issue is the justification for that untruth.

There are two plausible defences that could be offered. Either: "We knew at the time it was untrue, but to have told the truth would have meant revealing too much about our intelligence-gathering abilities; so, regretfully, we had to lie." Or: "We firmly believed at the time that the truth of what we were saying, it was only afterwards that information came to light showing that in fact the Belgrano was heading home."

Neither defence can now be sustained, for it transpires that some people knew and others did not, and that confusion now reigns as to who precisely knew what, and how and

Soviet Army includes a chemical warfare battalion of at least 60 vehicles. Every artillery gun is equipped with chemical shells. Every soldier is trained in the exercise of chemical warfare, and equipped with protective masks and clothing. Stockpiles of chemical weapons, according to unclassified estimates, are as high as 700,000 tons - including agents which attack the nerves, the skin, the blood and the respiratory system of their victims. Warsaw Pact exercises furnish conclusive proof of the readiness to use these weapons for offensive purposes, in a sudden massive onslaught.

Training for chemical warfare is conducted throughout the Soviet Union, and begins long before the conscript enters military service. From secondary school on, every Soviet citizen is required to attend classes in civil defence and to participate in military drills. Intensive training endures throughout his life, and contains important elements of preparation for chemical warfare.

The threat is not only against our troops on the ground. A chemical cloud can force a fleet of ships to disperse, so as to leave its vital protective shield; chemical bombardment can make landing craft ineffective, and chemical-carrying rockets can neutralise our bases and nuclear installations. Soviet preparedness to use these weapons has been displayed in Cambodia and Afghanistan; moreover, lacking any legal opposition or independent public opinion, the Soviet Union is under no internal pressure to renounce them.

When it was suggested that the neutron bomb be introduced into our European force, a massively orchestrated campaign, led by the Soviet Union, effectively prevented deployment. The Soviet Union meanwhile introduced similar weapons, so gaining the advantage. If it were now suggested that we should arm ourselves with an effective chemical deterrent, there would be the same outcry, and the same cynical noises from the Soviet leadership.

Yet, as Mr Hammit demonstrates, chemical weapons have been used only where there has been no fear of retaliation. Without the power to retaliate, we leave ourselves vulnerable to a mode of attack which could destroy us within days or hours. Yet NATO is virtually without chemical weapons of its own.

If I now say "Wake up, it is the eleventh hour," I shall be accused of scare-mongering. Well, I am scare-mongering, and you ought to be scared.

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COMPETITIVE CARS

The British motor industry will assemble for its biennial Motor Show at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham this week with more confidence than seemed possible at the beginning of the decade. September car sales were a record. The market for 1984 as a whole may still top last year's record 1.8 million and the number of cars coming out of Britain's factories, after three lean years could again top the million mark. The successful launch of Jaguar on the stock market was the symbolic fruit of great improvements in technology and efficiency, product quality and not least labour relations throughout a shrunken but fitter industry.

All this is good news for the country, for even a shrunken motor industry provides more than a million jobs from the component supplier to the forecourt, is our leading manufacturing exporter and contributed more than £12 billion to national output. The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders does not think we yet appreciate this turn of events. "We are producing high quality, good value vehicles, using the very latest modern design and production techniques", its chairman announced when launching a new publicity campaign last month. "But our public image is still wallowing around in the Seventies".

The manufacturers have plenty to crow about - investment, use of robotics, staunching the flow of imports. They deserve some public support for their campaign against the discriminatory 10 per cent additional car tax for investment in roads and fair trading with Spain. But as so many campaigners have discovered in the past, actions will determine the industry's image more than any

torrent of publicity. The British public, which apparently holds its home car industry in such low esteem is quite right to think that the British car industry has still moved only part of the way down the road to establishing its competitiveness, ensuring its long-term viability, giving the customer a good deal and unravelling the monopolistic distortions of the market that allowed it to drift so complacently into its recent parlous condition.

The underlying problem is surely that the British industry has emerged so small: output is roughly a third of that in France, a quarter of Germany's and less than a seventh of Japan's. In an era when Ford's British chief executive sees the development of a car for the world mass market as a \$1 billion project, that is a severe inherited disadvantage. Apart from BL, Britain's output is now dominated by multi-nationals who have voted with their feet and moved the centre of their production away from Britain. Despite relatively low wages and improved efficiency, British costs are rarely competitive with those of continental plants let alone Japan. And while the relative strength of the pound against continental currencies may in part be blamed, this was a necessary consequence of Britain's North Sea oil finds.

As the stands go up in Birmingham, Vauxhall workers are on strike for higher pay on Merseyside and Jaguar has had a 21 per cent wage offer rejected. Employees who have had a hard time may be forgiven for wanting their share of their companies' recent success. But the message that British costs are still relatively uncompetitive does not seem to have been learnt.

The industry's improved performance still depends on British car-buyers paying 15 per cent more for their cars than those in Germany, not to mention the most competitive European markets. European Community regulators recently fined Austin-Rover for alleged attempts to sabotage reimports of its right-hand drive cars from cheaper markets; and British firms are prominent in the general campaign by European manufacturers to resist the EEC's proposals to restrict differential pricing within the Community countries and allow consumers to buy freely in the cheapest market.

The manufacturers' ability to frustrate a free market is based on the monopoly elements of the dealership system, enhanced in Britain's case by right-hand drive eccentricity. And it is reinforced by the "gentlemen's agreement" with Japanese right-hand drive manufacturers to limit their share of our market to 11 per cent, through an industry to industry allocation of quotas to individual firms.

Any recovery built on such shaky foundations can only be of the most limited short-term nature. The machinery is already creaking. If Britain's manufacturers are to reverse our £2 billion a year motor industry trade deficit, they will at least have to learn to compete on equal terms in our home market. They should now be taking steps to cope with full competition within Europe rather than resisting it. And the anti-competitive Japanese quotas must eventually break down with the arrival of Nissan as a new British manufacturer. Only when the British industry can succeed in a free market will it earn the new image it covets.

THE DUARTE INITIATIVE

Yesterday's meeting between President Duarte and a number of El Salvador's guerrilla leaders at least shows that neither side has entirely lost the capacity to surprise.

Why did President Duarte choose to make his offer now, with the fewest preconditions? Though the move can be described as an attempt to regain the moral initiative after Nicaragua's acceptance of the Contadora Treaty proposals three weeks ago, and to reply by gesture to the Contadora group's request for a response by 15 October, such an explanation on its own places too great a weight on Contadora's influence - the Nicaraguan government did not gain everyone's trust over night. Though the State Department has supported the initiative, and though it has its convenient side for President Reagan's campaign, it does not have the marks of being made under United States pressure. Nor, despite talks of a coming guerrilla offensive, has it been made out of military weakness: the guerrillas are further from winning than a year ago.

On Senator Duarte's side there must be other, political, judgments at work. The meeting has an immediate theatrical impact, and there is nothing wrong with that. More profoundly, if all goes moderately well it can be hailed as something at last essentially Salvadorean, a "recovery of sovereignty". The President must think that he has at least reassured sufficient of the Salvadorean right to take the risk, and be confident that he has the talent and firmness not to be outmanoeuvred in the complicated and unpredictable bargaining that has to be part of any peace-making process. His essential principle is to offer political participation and security guarantees, but not power-sharing. He must also know that without negotiations, this guerrilla war has no foreseeable end.

On that most guerrillas may very well agree, and the military stalemate may be one of their motives for meeting him. Yet another offensive against this recently elected government would not bring victory closer. From the point of view of Nicaragua and Cuba, it would heighten tension at what is already a particularly tense time.

Will peace break out in El Salvador? The problems posed by fragmented and partly Marxist guerrillas, and by a government of still uncertain authority are obvious enough, but it is possible that peace-making can generate its own momentum, particularly where those who oppose peace on both sides cannot offer viable alternatives.

A general pacification of Central America remains distant. A truce in El Salvador could be seen as a possible step on the way, though the US regards the Contadora proposals as too favourable to the Sandinistas. They might be left with too large an army, not effectively isolated from Cuban and Soviet influences, and under little effective pressure to open their system. Yesterday's talks, if they can be the beginning of peace in El Salvador, may bring the Nicaraguan government some immediate respite, but they can also increase its isolation as the most intransigent element in the region. After Mr Reagan's re-election, with a possible thaw in east-west relations, the Nicaraguan regime might find itself short of friends.

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HAND-TO-MOUTH HEALTH SERVICE

A sense of ideological fatigue has fallen over the perennial national debate over private and public medicine. The exhaustion of the old ideas has been most clearly witnessed recently in the Labour Party conference, which sounded a call (untouched by the lessons of 40 years, and disregarding the advice of the leadership, who had to consider the possibility of one day being called on to implement such a policy) for the abolition of private medicine and all NHS charges. At the other end of the political spectrum, the notoriously wasteful and inequitable example of the United States, together with the reverses suffered by private hospitals in recent years, have shown that a system of service payments by item needs much more thinking through.

The hospital service remains sadly undercapitalized and ill-equipped to react to change. There is all too little incentive either to satisfy the patient or to provide the most cost-effective treatment. The badly-needed injections of capital through partnership with private providers of specialist services have been slow to materialize, partly because of the suspicions on both sides instilled in the Barbara Castle era. There is no prospect of large increases in state funds in the foreseeable future under any government, yet few health authorities have shown the entrepreneurial energy that Central Manchester has in attracting more private patients and ploughing their fees back to the benefit of its NHS patients.

Britain's hospitals still live hand-to-mouth, as they always have done - with shortages of resources still enforcing an emphasis on patching-up rather than prevention, and on acute rather than chronic patients, and a reliance on the queue as an instrument of rationing. These characteristics are largely an inheritance of the hospital system of the 1940s and before, and foreseeable trends today in medicine and demography threaten to make these deficiencies graver in the decades to come. In general practice, by contrast, there is much higher morale and a sense of relevance (with the exception of certain inner-city areas where it has been moribund for many years).

This contrast is so striking that several contributors to a paper published this week make it the basis of their proposals for a new dispensation in the NHS of the 1990s. The document, issued by the Office of Health Economics ("A New NHS Act for 1996" - £1.50) looks forward to the NHS's fiftieth birthday and tries to guess what its future form should be. Taking it for granted that the public-private controversy is now self-evidently sterile, they foresee an age of dramatically advanced surgical and diagnostic techniques, of patients with higher expectations, and changed patterns of illness as more people live on into old age.

Several writers argue that these changes will give a new centrality to the general practitioner, armed with computerised

diagnostic and preventive techniques, and mediating between patient and specialists over more fragmented and narrower. Professor Marshall Marinker argues forcefully for more team-work and more generalist training among ancillary workers in the primary sector. Professor George Teeling-Smith proposed that the GP should actually become the financial arbiter of the hospital service, through a method of funding which rewarded hospitals which were successful in attracting referrals from him. This proposal would scarcely be effective except in a situation of over-supply which it is hard to envisage here, and implies improved medical audit and a relatively sophisticated readiness in patients to shop around.

It is only the germ of an idea, but it has some similarity with the principle of the Health Maintenance Organizations which have appeared recently in the United States. The very failure of the crude market in the USA has forced the development of new approaches that would offer attractions, not only in efficiency but also in equity, if they could be grafted onto our own system. The HMOs are designed to take account both of cost-effectiveness, patient satisfaction, and prevention. By one means or another, health services in this country too need to be more responsive to all these motives. On these topics, a new and less sterile debate over the future shape of health provision in Britain is greatly needed.

US policy goals for 'star wars'

From Dr Colin S. Gray

Sir, Professor Lawrence Freedman (September 21) does not contribute constructively to public debate over President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) when he alleges that

you find an editorial of September 19 seem to be unaware that the President's ultimate objective of rendering nuclear weapons "impotent and obsolescent" has now been superseded by an "intermediate" objective which involves no more than protecting important military assets, and certainly does not meet your main concern of taking us out of the condition of mutual assured destruction.

I told Professor Freedman, at a recent conference, that US policy goals for the SDI had not changed, but apparently he did not believe me. Perhaps he will believe Secretary of Defense, Caspar Weinberger. On May 1, 1984, before the National Press Club in Washington, Secretary Weinberger said:

The ultimate goal of the strategic defence initiative is to develop thoroughly reliable defences. This does not preclude, of course, any intermediate deployment that could provide, among other things, defense of the offensive deterrent forces, which of course we still have to maintain. . . . those intermediate capabilities are completely consistent with the ultimate goal, and indeed with the vital steps toward that goal.

Professor Freedman alleges that SDI research is not at an "early and vulnerable" stage - an allegation he supports by citing the obvious points that research of strategic defence (for Ballistic Missile Defense) has been funded for many years, more than 25 in fact, and that a Carter-era program recently has been assessed successfully (the homing overlay experiment).

As Professor Freedman knows full well, it is a gigantic step to proceed from the very modest technology and "device" research and development of recent years, to the design, development, test and evaluation of

a multi-layered architecture of strategic defence. In fact he destroys his own argument by taking you to task in a later paragraph for being preoccupied with the interceptor itself rather than the number of interceptors required, the means by which their reliability can be ensured and their vital components protected against counter-attack. . . . and the ability to detect and track their targets and manage an extremely complicated series of engagements.

Research and development of strategic defensive weapon systems is indeed at an "early and vulnerable stage".

Professor Freedman's position seems to be sensible, but is it? He favours "a moderate level of research," but so do I (what would constitute an "immoderate" level of research)? The US has to pay an entry price in dollars for R and D to see if the SDI can produce useful weapon systems.

Is Professor Freedman suggesting that the US should conduct SDI research only in a half-hearted manner to provide arms control leverage in Soviet anxiety, or as a prudential hedge against Soviet developments in this field? If US SDI research is to provide such a hedge, given the level of Soviet research, development and production, an increase over previous "moderate" levels of research is required, in addition to some near-term offensive-force counter measures.

It will be interesting to see how those supporters of a "moderate level of research" on strategic defence react to the probable technical success of the programme. Sincerely,

COLIN S. GRAY, President, National Institute for Public Policy, 8408 Arlington Blvd., First Floor, Fairfax, VA, 22031, USA, October 8.

Brontë photograph

From Lady Piper

Sir, In 1956 I was pushing the pram along the waterfront at Hammer-smith and stopped by the Dove to watch some workmen clearing out the Georgian house behind the pub. They were throwing into the garden boxes of unwanted glass negatives from the studio of the photographer, Emery Walker.

I had never heard of Emery Walker, but the negatives looked interesting so I persuaded the builders to wait while I hurried home and rang up my husband, David Piper, who was then working at the National Portrait Gallery. He decided the negatives should be saved and with the agreement of the council, sent a van at once to pick up several thousand of them, the whole collection.

I am very glad to hear (report, October 11) that the staff of the NPG have now had time to catalogue them, and that our long-ago rescue operation seems to have been worthwhile.

With serendipity, yours truly, ANNE H. PIPER, Overford Farm, Wytham, Oxford, October 11.

Something fishy

From Mr M. B. F. Ranken

Sir, Your leader on October 10 emphasises yet again the ineffectiveness of the common fisheries policy as it has evolved so far out of the inept and inequitable regime hurriedly foisted on us by five of the original six continental members at the time we adhered to the Treaty of Rome in 1972.

That regime sought to give freedom of access to virtually all Community waters right up to our beaches, both in the Atlantic and in the Mediterranean, without regard for conservation or prudent husbandry - the so-called "tragedy of the commons," long since extinct on land, as demonstrably destructive of most wild resources, especially in face of effective hunting techniques.

Our continental partners would welcome a free-for-all throughout the 850,000 square nautical miles of the European fish pond. We, by contrast, with 60 per cent of the sea waters and the largest catch of food fish, pressed for resources management, especially after January, 1977, when 200 nautical miles fishing limits were declared, though ministerial deter-

Threat of acid rain

From Emeritus Professor M. W. Thring

Sir, I would like to take issue with Professor R. J. P. Williams (October 6) when he says that "as far as carbon dioxide levels are concerned even the preventative measure is unknown". There is a well proven method of simultaneously halving the emissions of carbon dioxide and sulphur oxides: it is called "fuel economy".

We have grown accustomed to a grossly extravagant use of fossil fuels and of energy in general because we had cheap coal and oil and were prepared to use up those resources in a few centuries or even decades. However, we know very well how to achieve our present standard of living with less than half our present fossil fuel consumption.

Examples are combined heat and power, which uses the fossil fuel with more than twice the efficiency, hybrid diesel-electric cars which could give 100 mpg, heat pumps and domestic insulation and draught exclusion.

Yours sincerely, M. W. THRING, Bell Farm, Brundish, Woodbridge, Suffolk, October 7.

Sinking of Bismarck

From Mr J. B. Measures

Sir, Now that a number of Conservative Party members have joined with the two opposition parties in calling for an inquiry into the sinking of the Argentine vessel Belgrano, it seems to me to be an appropriate time to renew the demand for the much-postponed inquiry into the sinking of the German battleship Bismarck, with all the grievous loss of life amongst German sailors that that entailed.

After all, it is not as if the Germans had actually walked into and occupied any of our territory as the wrecked Argentinians had done in the Falklands. (One discounts, of course, the minor affair of the Channel Islands, which really belonged to the Duchy of Normandy, and were thus a part of France.)

Besides, the Bismarck was way out in the middle of the Atlantic, many miles away from the War Zone, and actually steaming in the opposite direction to any fighting. She was deliberately avoiding contact with the British fleet, and had been so doing for a long while - no doubt so as not to provoke us.

All in all, one might have said without too much exaggeration that a state of war barely existed. In these circumstances who knows, Sir, what delicate peace negotiations might have been taking place that were not severely prejudiced by this irresponsible act?

One asks oneself, who actually gave the order for the sinking? And at exactly what hour of the day (or perhaps night) was it given? Was the War Cabinet directly in contact with the commander on the spot the whole time? If not, then why not? These and many other important questions need to be answered, I feel.

Yours truly, John Measures, The Keeper's Cottage, Deane Down, Oakley, Basingstoke, Hampshire, October 9.

The Church and politics

From Dr C. B. Goodhart

Sir, Now that the clergy are increasingly involving themselves in partisan politics, should the Church of England perhaps not follow the example of many trade unions in setting up a political fund, explicitly intended to finance its activities in this respect?

The laity could then contribute to this fund, or not, as they thought fit, so that Church members unwilling to follow their clerical and episcopal leaders into contentious political or economic fields could be assured that none of the money they gave, in Sunday collections or by covenant or otherwise, will be used for secular purposes of which they may well disapprove.

This would also provide a useful indication of the extent to which those claiming to speak for "the Church" in such matters really do have the support of the whole body of the Church, of which of course the clergy form only a very small part. C. B. GOODHART, Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge, October 11.

Lessons for British industry from Japan

From Professor John L. Burbidge

Sir, Britain faces two main problems in production: first, to improve efficiency so that we can compete on reasonable terms with the rest of the world and second to increase the number of jobs, so that we can reduce unemployment. It seems possible that the same approach of copying the Japanese could make a major contribution to both.

There is no doubt that the Japanese are today the world leaders in production efficiency. They have achieved this position by changing from process to product organization, with a high level of delegation of decision-making to the shop floor; by a change in production economics which chooses maximization of the rate of stock turnover rather than minimization of direct labour costs as the foundation for improving profitability; and by the realisation that quality is everybody's responsibility and not something to be delegated to a specialist.

I also submit that we should copy Japan in solving our unemployment problems. The Japanese built up their industry by copying the best western product designs and by some redesign to improve their quality and reliability and to reduce production costs. They then broke the competition by choosing the most popular lines and producing them in large quantities, so that they could sell them at prices which were lower than our costs.

A similar strategy would work just as well for us. In fact it would be easier for us, because we only have to break back into our old markets. The Japanese had to create new markets. I believe that the time

is ripe for us to "borrow back" some of their more popular designs of machine tools, motor cycles and other engineering products while we still have engineers of experience in their design and manufacture.

The Japanese have in effect done the market research for us. We know which Japanese machine tools, motor cycles and other products are selling best. We know the strengths and weaknesses of their products.

We do not want nut for nut copies, but similar designs which overcome any known weaknesses and are better than Japanese products. We want products that can compete in the same capacity and price ranges, because we know that there is a market for them.

We have engineers with the skills in mechanical engineering and electronics needed for this work. We have salesmen, designers, production planners, tool makers, fitters and machinists at present unemployed, who could do the work. We have vacant factories. We have capital looking for investment opportunities and large amounts of grant aid available for new ventures.

"Borrowing back" in this way could make a major contribution to an increase in employment, import substitution and additional exports would help our economy. All we lack at the moment are entrepreneurs with the will to win back our old industries.

Yours faithfully, JOHN L. BURBIDGE, David Geese Leys, Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, October 10.

Benefits of youth service

From Professor David Marsland

Sir, Francis Cattermole's letter about community service (October 6) may have misled your readers.

My report (*Work to be Done*), available from Youth Call) explicitly acknowledges the extent and value of community service already being undertaken. We propose a substantial expansion over and above this and suggest there may be above 300,000 opportunities in social services, health, and education.

No one, to my knowledge, has suggested that a nationwide programme is, in his words a "cheap option". However, the costs involved in developing a high-quality programme would not be excessive and the returns to the community and to unemployed young people would be invaluable.

As for his reference to Youth Call's alleged "infatuation with youth", this comes oddly from the director of an organisation (National Council for Voluntary Youth Services) concerned specifically with the needs of young people.

In my view community service could be beneficial either generally, or in relation to young people, or unemployed young people specifically, or a combination of these. As of now - and for the realistically foreseeable future - the needs of unemployed young people are so serious and pressing that they must be our priority.

Eighty-four per cent of 15 to 24-year-olds support the introduction of a community service programme. So do most of the adult population, and political leaders across the board. Who is against it - and why?

Yours sincerely, DAVID MARSLAND, Brunel University, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Uxbridge, Middlesex, October 7.

From the Executive Director of Community Service Volunteers Sir, The Director of the National Council for Voluntary Youth

Services (October 6) massively over-estimates the capacity of Community Service Volunteers to enable "the many who want to serve the community as a full-time option."

The Times MORI poll demonstrates that 4 per cent of the 16 to 18 age group would rather do community service than anything else mentioned - an immediate 60,000 young people willing to tackle conservation, caring for the handicapped and elderly or helping in inner-city primary schools. CSV's maximum present capacity is 5,000 opportunities per annum, despite a waiting list of 2,000.

The cost to the public purse of matching a young person to a project of service for a year is £250. The alternative for many is to continue to draw supplementary benefit costing the Exchequer £885 per annum; this hardly achieves "efficiency" and is certainly not compassionate towards either the young or those they might be helping.

What is required is a determination by Government, both central and local, to give young people the chance to raise the quality of life for many elderly in their own homes, children in primary schools and residents of our neglected inner-cities.

Such a programme would not jeopardise existing jobs but reinforce those in the front line of our health and social services. The great majority would welcome an injection of young people's energies into the services they are struggling to provide.

Last week the French Government introduced a programme for 700,000 young people: surely Britain could manage say three pilot projects to give hope to some soon and to many before long.

Yours, ELISABETH HOODLESS, Executive Director, Community Service Volunteers, 237 Pentonville Road, N1, October 11.

The gentle touch

From Mrs G. Tittley

Sir, Whilst I applaud the efforts of the Women's Farming Union in trying to improve the handling of English fruit in the supermarkets (report, October 4), why stop at English fruit and the supermarkets?

What about the great majority of imported fruit most supermarkets display on their shelves? How many shoppers have bought a pack of Italian peaches which look very tempting, only to find they have turned bad in two days? What about bruised tomatoes, bananas, and peppers?

Indeed, why confine the criticism of bad fruit handling to supermarkets? In my experience, market stall holders are much worse. I often witness a crate of bananas turned upside down to empty its contents, primarily on to a stall; but many land on the floor, are picked up and thrown on the pile. Strawberries are prone to this treatment also.

What about the Women's Farming Union expanding their inspection schemes to these market stall holders?

Yours faithfully, G. TITTLEY, The Old House, School Lane, Yelvertoft, Northamptonshire, October 5.

Lucky dog

From Mr David French

Sir, My dog is the only member of my family who has private health insurance. Today I received a circular from his insurance company offering me and my family free trial membership of a similar plan.

Does my dog know something I do not?

Yours faithfully, DAVID FRENCH, 21 Prospect Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire, October 10

● Hard times for the DP set: Page 20

COMPUTER HORIZONS

● Edited by MATTHEW MAY

● The mighty mouse roars: Page 22

Computeracy, a new partner to true democracy?

By Alan Lewis

The solution to many of the problems of the Government and those of the public face in dealing with government departments could be the use of computers. This is the belief of Norman Strauss, a former special adviser to the Prime Minister and a member of the No 10 Policy Unit.

He believes the establishment has "ossified" and constitutional change is needed. Tomorrow's information society provides the means, he says, of achieving radical reform and greater democracy enabling ordinary citizens more opportunities to ask questions and make suggestions.

Mr Strauss, who helped put the Tories and Mrs Thatcher into government, said: "Society must use the new technology of knowledge engineering from the start, using expert systems and intelligent databases which can learn and hold an effective consultation with a home computer user who dials in."

A "computeracy" could develop as a new organ of the state every bit as important to democracy in its own way as the judiciary. It will be analogous to it in many constitutional, staffing and operational respects. The judiciary is the natural model to build the philosophy on and to work out many of the legislative details.

Mr Strauss outlined his theory at a recent conference in Providence organized by Sperry. He said: "If the logic of the new technology is followed through

there will be no need to write letters to departments in the hope that the civil servant who answers them has grasped the logic of your questions or suggestions.

"Instead, there is no reason an expert system cannot be developed which gives you instant access to the relevant minutes, viewpoints, arguments and models so that you can see precisely how your own ideas fit in with the current practices.

"Your contribution is acknowledged by the intelligent data base which instantly comprehends your point and updates its own files accordingly, crediting you, should you require it, with the idea.

"If it cannot grasp your input you can always fall back to the time-honoured human routines of old, within the department responsible for that sphere of activity. The system could be programmed to open that avenue up for you, even to the extent of making appointments for you to meet with the exact person whose responsibility the matter at hand is. No more switchback rides around departmental phones."

The way to get such reform under way, suggested Mr Strauss, is to set up a Royal Commission, but a commission special in that its own members would be responsible for carrying out their own recommendations. No civil servant would be put in charge of championing the introduction of someone else's alien ideas which strike at the heart of his own beliefs.

Corfield says we choose the wrong bosses

One of the biggest problems in British industry is the inadequacy of directors and top management. That is the view of Sir Kenneth Corfield, chairman of Standard Telephone and Cables, who took over ICL - Britain's biggest computer company - five years after telling them they were on the brink of failure.

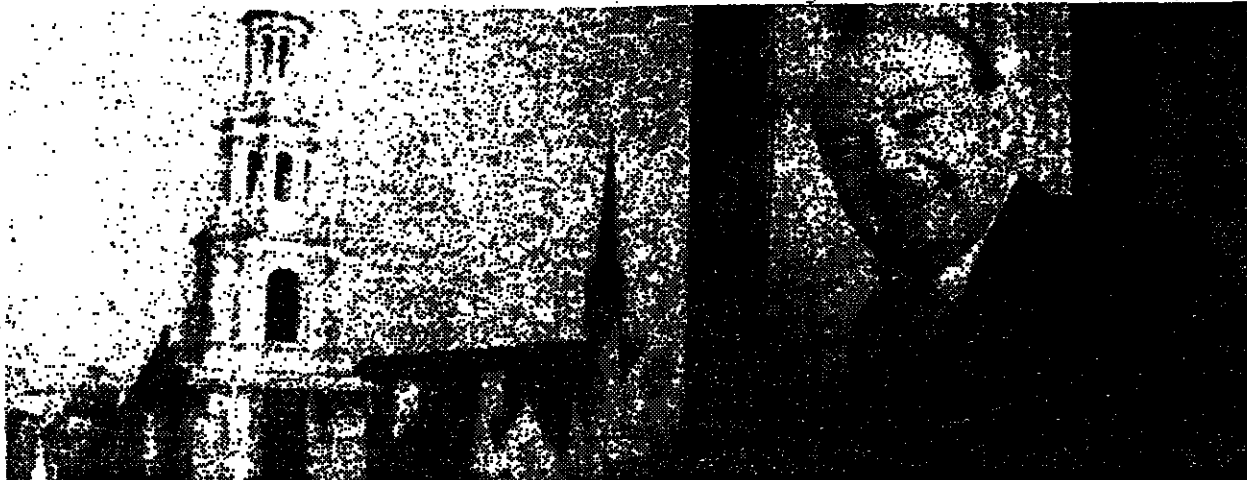
Sir Kenneth had been tipped to take the chairmanship of ICL at Putney in 1979 "but the prognosis I made didn't please the board at that time", he says. The prognosis was that they were not being managed. They hadn't the right kind of organisation and in consequence unless they changed things quite drastically there would be failure. So it happened, the failure.

Sir Kenneth's personal determination to marry his company with an important computer group resulted in the STC takeover of ICL in August. Last week the top executives from both companies met in a three-day session to plan a strategy to take them into the 'nineties.

Before that conference Sir Kenneth outlined to *The Times* his views on the partnership, the industry and the challenge from foreign competition in the information technology sector.

"We shall plan the strategy from 1986 to 1991 and we shall decide what products and services are going to be offered and where they will be developed, and very roughly at what sort of cost," he said. This was going to be the first major test of a management team that has yet to prove it can work together. Corfield has confidence in the industry but is scathing about the barriers which still prevent technologists taking places in the top line management.

Sir Kenneth's standards are high and he expects the same from people below him. Recalling that 1979 meeting with ICL he said: "The management to whom I had been talking were not aware of the nature of their problem. They had a total



Sir Kenneth: happy at the STC-ICL grouping - but he's not so sanguine about people not buying British

lack of awareness. One of the problems of British industry - and a very serious one accepted by a lot of people - is that it's not just the quality of directors and top management is wrong but their experience and knowledge. You can appoint a merchant banker as the chairman of a property company, but you're not going to get very far appointing him to a company that depends on technology for its sheer existence. This is a fault right through Britain."

A higher level of technical education among managers and engineers being attracted into management are philosophies close to his heart. As chairman of the Engineering Council as well as STC, he has called for a 10 per cent swing from arts university places to those in engineering.

Robb Wilmot, effervescent chairman of ICL, in succession to Edwards epitomises the ideal manager for Corfield, who would like to see that energy and those technical/management skills emulated by every engineer in Britain. That drive, he

THE WEEK By Bill Johnstone

Believes, will cause Wilmot to leave the STC/ICL partnership within two years and seek more exciting pastures.

Corfield is the boss and anyone doubtful need look no further than the exit of Sir Michael Edwards who was chairman of ICL at the time of the summer takeover. Corfield claims there was no personality conflict but he clearly disagreed with Edwards' assessment about the group's productivity. Within three weeks of assuming office in April, Edwards had accused the ICL workforce of having the lowest productivity in the industry. The main union at the company, the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs disagreed. So did Sir Kenneth Corfield.

They have about £40,000 per head of turnover. He (Edwards) overlooked the enormous imports of ready-made goods that IBM have and he attributed that manufacture, that added value to the workforce in England, which was quite wrong. IBM were only distributing it. It was made in the States or in the Far East."

Corfield believes that lack of government strategy and support from British business will sound the death knell of the information technology industry. He is no protectionist but insists that the British must have a "buy British First" policy.

"We have gradually hounded out of this country each of our industries in turn," he says.

"We have failed to support them at a time when we were the biggest users. We being the business environment. Britain is extremely good and open at distribution. And with a few exceptions that distribution network has virtually no regard for the origin of the goods concerned, because it is

only concerned with the acquisition of the goods and the added value which comes from distribution. That is one of the serious problems of Britain. It is entirely different from Japan and Germany. It has something in common with the US. In Japan and Germany you have a distribution network that looks suspiciously at anything imported and puts it through a lot of standards and tests that virtually delays it coming in. It was often said in the 'fifties that every German was born not with a silver spoon in his mouth but one that said 'Bought in Germany'. No German executive drives a Jaguar car."

Sir Kenneth finds it baffling that we take wages for building and manufacturing in this country and then use those wages as consumers to buy other countries' products.

He is convinced that goods are dumped here to capture the market and destroy the indigenous competition.

British business must develop a buy British policy, he claims. It must also learn to evolve at a rate which will allow the British manufacturing sector to service its needs. He says that too often British businessmen, after years of vacillation, decide to adopt a certain piece of technology and expect the product immediately.

Sir Kenneth has a piece of evidence as fresh as last week to support that proposition. It happened when his STC was excluded from offering its digital exchange for use by British Telecom. Why? Because it would not be ready on time, and that was due to insufficient warning from an industry that had decided to modernise quicker than the manufacturing sector could respond, claims Sir Kenneth.

But it is the government with its public procurement contracts which can substantially influence the direction of industry and the Corfield information technology strategy would ensure that British industry used home products first.

Tailor-made package takes off into the market

By Michael Prest

For all the razzamatazz about business software, one curiously neglected area has been commodity and currency trading. Yet in no other area is speed and accuracy of information more important. The commodity broker who is most abreast of his own and his clients' positions can reduce losses and cut commissions.

One leading City company of commodity brokers frustrated by the inadequacy of account and dealing packages was

Comfin. It commissioned the small Bedford software house Cortex, to develop bespoke back-up for foreign exchange and futures dealing.

So pleased was Comfin with the results that it has now joined forces with Cortex to market the two packages. The first series of demonstrations was held in Comfin's offices a fortnight ago. Howard Johnston, who formed Cortex in 1976, is talking of a £1m market - significant for a company whose turnover is less than £500,000.

The two software packages

are called Spot, essentially an administration program designed to provide all the complex back-up for currencies trading, and Forward, a more dealer-oriented program for futures and options trading.

Spot was conceived last November and installed in March. It costs £12,500. Simon Paige, who heads Comfin's computer services, says that the gamble to go all out for a full accounting system paid off and the program has run without any serious faults.

The program's strength is the

comprehensiveness of the information it can provide. A contract is immediately recorded under both currency and client, and the system automatically alerts the trader to maturing contracts, generates instant reports on any position, and allows any stage in a transaction to be checked. Banks are the most likely purchasers.

The second program, Forward, offers similar facilities but is more closely geared to the immediate needs of a futures or options trader. It is linked to

International Data Media, which provides on-line prices, and can be used to trade in any contract in any market around the world. The position of clients is instantly updated, thereby reducing the risk of credit limits being exceeded.

At twice the cost, Forward is more elaborate because it will handle options as well as futures, and calculates interest on account debits and credits, profit and loss, margin requirements and so on. But both are menu-driven, will produce contract forms and correspondence,

and can be linked into telex and other communication systems.

Perhaps the greatest appeal of these programs, however, lies in their adaptability. Howard Johnston and his team worked them in Pick, and American business language named after its inventor, Dick Pick. The language runs on a wide variety of hardware.

An essential part of Spot and Forward is that the ICCA has agreed to send batch reports to Comfin down line three times a day.



Martin Emery of Comfin

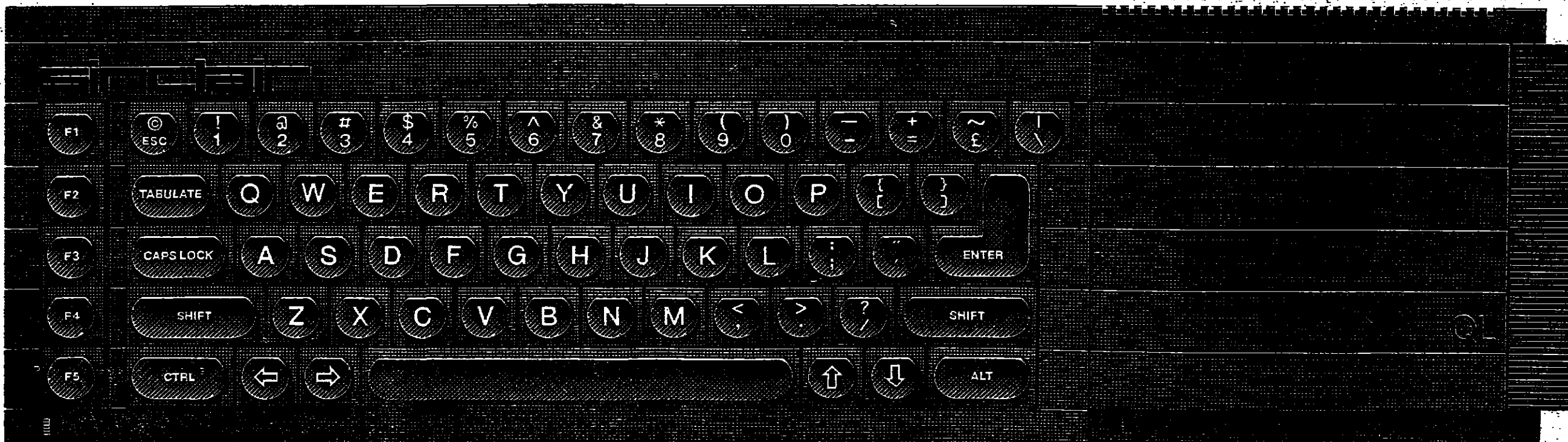


Howard Johnston of Cortex

'...extraordinary value for money' YOU (Mail on Sunday)
'...breaks new ground' Personal Computer News
'...one of the most important microcomputers ever' Soft
'...at its price...well nigh impossible to beat' Daily Telegraph
'...ahead of the field' Personal Computing Today

Now in the shops

Available at selected branches of WH Smiths, Dixons, John Lewis Partnership, Currys and larger branches of Boots, Greens, John Menzies, and specialist computer stores nationwide.



The reviewers agree: the Sinclair QL is in a class of its own. And now it's in the shops. At £399, the QL offers more than three times the usable memory of the same-price BBC Model B. And it's faster than the IBM PC. It offers features that, elsewhere, will cost you £1000 or more. And it comes with one of the best guides to programming ever written. So far over 15,000 QL computers have been sold and delivered. Call into your local stockist - and you'll soon see why!

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- * Full-size typewriter-style keyboard, solid keys.
- * Includes four software packages: word processing, spreadsheet, database and graphics.
- * Two Microdrives built in for data storage with rapid access. (Load a 90K program in seconds)
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- * High resolution 8-colour graphics.
- * Fast, powerful 32-bit processor architecture: allows windowing (several displays in the same screen) and multi-tasking (several tasks at the same time).
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Hardware – a suitable case for colourful treatment

By Rebecca Fliahou

The computer hardware designer has mainly been limited to ergonomics, the science of adapting products to the user's little foibles. Manufacturers were happy as long as their designs made sure that VDU screens did not send users scurrying to the optician's and that keyboards did not trap chubby fingers.

However, people are no longer satisfied with Model T Ford computers (any colour as long as it's black, beige or brown). Ambitious young executives do not want an obtrusive lump of plastic on their desks, but sleek little numbers that perch elegantly beside the paperwork. Because, like the company car, business computers are becoming a status symbol.

Moreover, just as certain designers spend hours optimising car speeds better suited to Le Mans than British roads, one can imagine computers falling prey to the vagaries of human nature and bearing any number of



Minolta's redesigned word processor also can be used as a typewriter

high-flown, but superfluous, features.

Company chairmen will possess Bentley computers (teak finish, maple inlay and silent keyboard), while managing directors will de-

mand Jaguar XJS micros (sharp, efficient and smooth) leaving marketing directors with BMW word processors (good-looking and fast but with the kind of complicated elec-

tronic spaghetti that can only be repaired by specialists).

As company needs vary, so will software. A computer in the accounts department may have to produce intricate information daily but will not have to look as good as the chairman's version which may be no more than a voice-recognition diary.

Depending on programming, a Bentley may house the software soul of a VW Beetle, thereby posing a dichotomy for industrial designers whose job it is to translate the concepts behind a new product into visual reality.

Forward-looking companies are already taking design seriously. ACT's Apricot range combines ergonomics, high performance and good looks. One of their computers has even found its way to the Victoria and Albert museum as part of an office design exhibition.

"All our computers are business machines, not home computers", says ACT marketing manager Jes Dornell, "but they should still be desirable

and not just boxed on top of one another. We conceived and developed the Apricot range ourselves although we brought in outside consultants on the ergonomic side. Design is a critical part of our research and development."

Manufacturers are beginning to realise it is easier to change their tooling once every two years than to tamper with their engineering. Hedda Beese and John Stoddard, joint managing directors of consultants Moggridge Associates, say their clients are asking them to design detailing into products purely for appearance.

"There's now room to be extravagant in appearance when a manufacturer changes a product's casework and can justify the tooling costs by high sales", says Mr Stoddard.

"Small firms will be more likely to make a splash in design terms either to advertise new technology or to say that their computer is just as good as the others, but looks great."

Moggridge Associates' sister company in the US, ID Two, has just launched a word processor for Minolta which wanted to design new products using its camera optics expertise and taking advantage of its comprehensive US distribution network. ID Two came up with a low-cost word processor which can be used as a straightforward typewriter by someone with no knowledge of computers.

"A few years ago, no one would have allowed us to spend tooling money putting grooves on the underside of a product or creating new cursor keys," says Hedda Beese.

Designers believe that the working environment will lead the home and not vice versa. Manufacturers are asking design consultants to dissociate their products from the IBM's of this world in order to make their own equipment stand out. But they are not wanting their products to be like home computers which they consider to be no more than educational toys.

Hard times for the DP chief

Until three years ago, the data processing professional was a powerful figure. He was deemed by his directors and fellow-managers to hold the key to administrative efficiency and progress in his company. But by 1981 this had changed. He was becoming swamped by the available technology. He felt threatened by the relentless march of the micros. He had lost prestige among his managerial peers.

Many top executives want to create a new post, either above or parallel to the DP manager. The main attribute of this new manager was to be knowledge in the company's particular business and only secondarily interest in and experience of installing computer systems.

What many emphatically do not want is a long-term "computer professional".

Line managers were telling managing directors the same thing, and sometimes when asked for ad hoc figures for an urgent meeting, they would not go to the DP manager for these figures, because they knew that the person concerned would complain of complexity of the requirement, and plead other more urgent deadlines.

Instead, they would go out and buy a microcomputer "Visualcator" raw data from

JOB SCENE

By Richard Sarson

the computer department's printouts, into the form required by the managing director, in time for the urgent meeting.

This was all very hard on the DP manager, who was an energetic, industrious, intelligent and loyal servant of the company.

Above all DP managers know how to protect their staff and schedules from the unreasonable demands of other departmental managers. Their last two years may well have been spent updating the remaining batch systems to "transaction-processing" and doing the groundwork for a large database system. This major conversion had, of course, been necessary to keep his installation on line with "state-of-art" operating system technology, and would be a springboard for future development of an "all-embracing" network.

Unfortunately, what it does is to ease the day-to-day chores of the hard-pressed clerk at the counter, or give the clerk's supervisor better control of the branch. With personal workload like that, dedicated to improve the internal "efficiency" of the computer department itself, it is not surprising that the DP manager has no time to look at the practical and evolving needs of the managers of the end-user departments.

Worst of all are those managers who do not realize the micro is no longer a hobbyist's toy.

It is then no wonder that managing directors should look for a new type of more business-orientated DP manager to be found among the ranks of the management consultants, who have the right mix of industry knowledge, the knack of selling his solutions, to the user departments, and enough technical expertise to find a path through the computer and communications jungle.

The result is that since 1982, a lot of computer managers have found themselves being relegated to second-in-command. However, recently they are taking steps to save themselves, beginning to look outwards, at the needs of the individual departments and seeking out the best application solution for those problems – whether the solution sits on a mini or micro or a mainframe.

DP managers must become advisers rather than empire builders.

A screen of many colours

A new graphics system has been launched which can be used with an IBM to create two-dimensional drawings. It costs about £5,000 and does away with the need to use a large mainframe or a service bureau.

A new British company, Data-Graphic has been formed in Cwmbran, Wales, to manufacture and market the system, which is particularly aimed at the design, architecture, engineering and advertising industries. The user can select from 16 colours to display on the screen at one time.

Home banker

Electronic home banking, operated in this country by the Nottingham Building Society with Homelink system, gets a further boost by a major overseas sale of the software to the Commonwealth Bank of Australia.

The Australian bank, the second largest in the country, with 1200 branches and 8.5 million account holders, will offer the system both for use in the home, and also as an interactive network between its widely spread branches. It will operate on the Praxtel system, which was sold to Australia earlier this year. John Webster managing director of the NBS, says that this sale, worth more than £150,000, together with the prospect of other international sales, will enable the society to continue to pay an enhanced interest rate to its investors, and plan further expansion of the service, including a new investment portfolio service.

Big draw

Prince Charles will today see a sophisticated new computer drawing system in use when he visits a Government training centre during his visit to Merseyside. The system, which has taken two years to produce by Graphics Avant Garde, is being sold for use with the new MZ5600 machine from Sharp.

Aimed at vertical markets, such as draughtsmen, architects and design engineers, it is completely menu driven, with most commands accessible through the use of a mouse. Any drawing can be produced to scale, and can be zoomed from 1 to 2,000,000. By using XY co-ordinates, any item or file of parts can be placed accurately on the screen, where it can be moved, rotated, mirrored, hatched or scaled.

Using the industry standard (BS308), measurements are accurate enough for the software to drive machine tools, or be used in architectural drawings.

Contract dangers

Computer users, suppliers of both hardware and software, leasing companies and the legal



Sixteen colours at one time

COMPUTER BRIEFING

profession all need to reassess their approach to computer contracts – that is the view of Arnold Segal, a partner in Spark & Co. who will be addressing a conference in November on the issues involved in negotiating computer contracts.

"The dangers are that we are going to have a lot of computer users, a lot of litigation and the computer industry is going to get a very bad reputation," he says. "Computer contracts should set out very clearly what everyone is trying to achieve. Lawyers have certainly got to pull their socks up. Segal is one of seven speakers who will address the first of two conferences organized by the Society for Computers and Law, at the Royal Garden Hotel in Kensington on Monday, November 19.

Tench bait

David Tench, of the Consumers' Association, believes solicitors should get on with fighting for conveyancing work in competition with those who will now be free to do it. As one of the speakers at a conference on November 20 called "Conveyancing: After the Bombshell", Tench believes that solicitors can hang on to the lion's share of the conveyancing market if they shape up and modernise.

The eyes have it

By Alan Lewis

A device that enables a person to control a computer by eye-gaze is to be announced this week. It gives a new meaning to the expression "if looks could kill" – it is claimed that a fighter pilot will be able to fire his aircraft's weaponry simply by looking at the target.

There is no attachment to the operator's body and no specialised knowledge is required to use it. It is just a matter of looking at a video screen. The new gadgetry is called "Cedric" and was developed by Santech Pty. of Adelaide, Australia.

It was designed primarily to assist highly disabled people to communicate, and it is now claimed to be a world first in communication aids for the disabled in that any piece of electronic equipment attached to a computer can be operated by eye-gaze.

The system works by reflecting a very low intensity red light off either eye, and detects the exact point on a video monitor at which the user is looking. The system allows the user to make slight movements of the head or to blink without affecting its operation. If the user is out of range, the system waits for realignment without the loss of continuity.

"Cedric" will enable patients who are paralysed and cannot speak to select words, phrases or symbols from a computerised dictionary simply by looking at them.

The new eye-gaze commu-

cator will be launched at a reception at the Australian High Commission on Friday.

ST. GODRIC'S COLLEGE, HAMPSHIRE

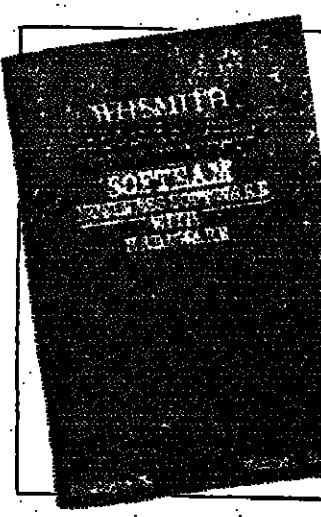
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- Computer Journalist of the Year (News): an HP110 Portable computer, a Thinkjet printer, and an inscribed plaque.
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- Computer photographer of the Year: £1,000 worth of photographic equipment (the photographer's choice) and an inscribed plaque.
- Computer Journal of the Year: an inscribed trophy to the editor and a case of champagne.
- Best Designed Journal of the Year: an inscribed trophy to the nominee of the Editor and a case of champagne.

The 1984 competition is open to British professional journalists and photographers whose work appears in any UK specialist publication that features technology or computing subjects.

Entries for 1984 must have been published between January 1 and October 31 1984. They may be submitted in two ways. Editors may nominate journalists on their staff, or journalists (including freelancers) may submit entries for themselves, providing the rules and entry procedures are observed.

Entries must be submitted by October 31, 1984. Entry forms, brochures and rules and regulations for the competition can be obtained from:

UK Computer Press Awards organizer,
Horsley Associates,
20/22 Craven Road,
London W2 3PX.

For more information, please contact Roger Payne, Hewlett-Packard on 0344 424898 or Horsley Association on 01-402 3347.

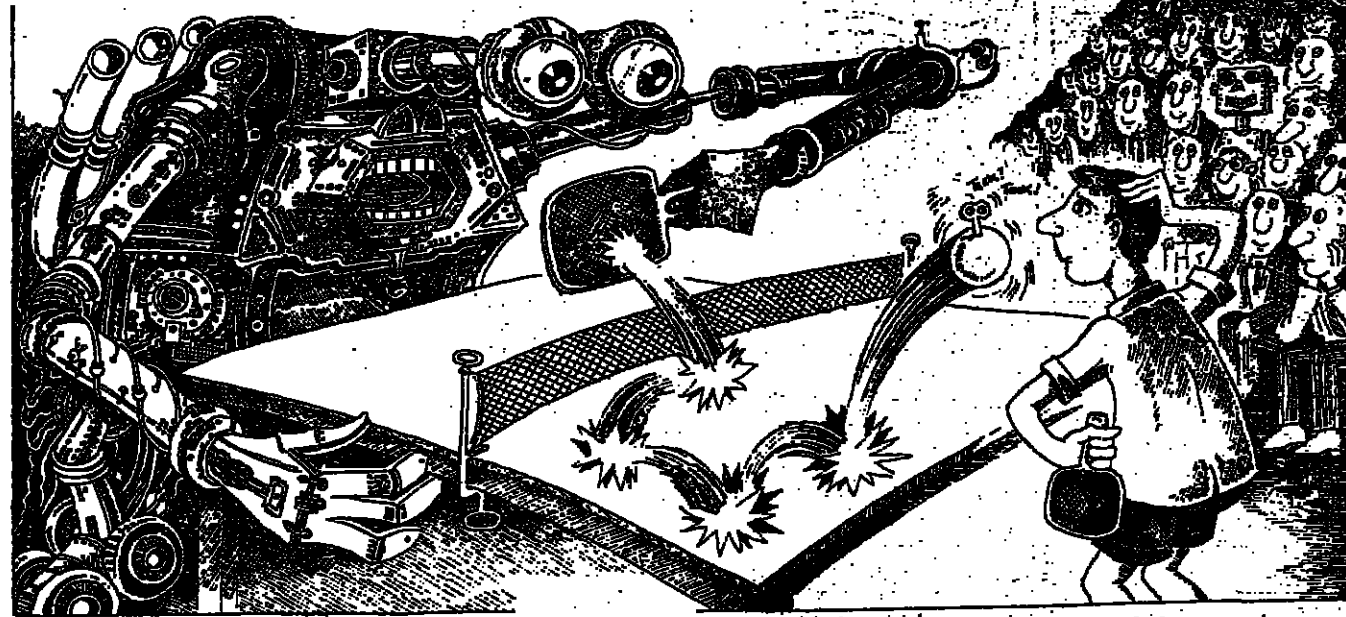
A personal view by Richard Pawson

"History repeats itself" - the epithet may seem out of place on a high-tech page where a more appropriate watchword might be "innovate or die". Yet it describes exactly the relationship between the personal computer revolution that started eight years ago, and the personal robot revolution just around the corner.

And make no mistake about it, the latter is going to be much bigger than the former. Some pundits already view the whole of computing as merely a subset of robotics: both entail the processing of information, but robots interact with the real, physical world. So why the claim that one mirrors the development of the other?

To most people, "personal robot" is at best a meaningless phrase, at worst a contradiction in terms. But then so was "personal computer" eight years ago. The personal computer represented a significant reduction in the size and power of the computers of the day, and more importantly the price. In comparison with the machines now employed on car production lines, low-cost robot arms look very puny indeed, but they cost 50 times less.

However, the personal computer revolution was really about control. The new devices could be bought without board-level approval, installed without special electrical or environmental requirements, and used without referral to a data-processing department - the self-



appointed high priests of computation.

Hardly surprisingly, the said DP departments and the mainframe computer manufacturers who created their raison d'être, dismiss this new development out of hand, and there are many people today who regard any form of low-cost device as a toy.

Before the micro, applications for computing were very restricted: accounts, stock control, order processing, all based on vast numbers of transactions. The effect of personalizing computers was to open up thousands of more imaginative uses. Packages such as Visicalc, Brainstorm, Symphony, and

Filevision would not have been compatible with the old order of things.

Most robots are employed nowadays either in materials handling (picking up objects and placing them elsewhere) or in finishing processes, such as paint-spraying. The effort of small robots in the school and home will be similar. People who have had no formal training in a technical subject, aren't constrained by what they believe to be possible.

Enthusiasts are enormously inventive and resourceful. Two decades of formal research into image processing has failed to produce a general-purpose robot

vision system. But now that you can buy an electronic camera for the BBC micro for just £130, we can expect to see some really clever programs within a few months.

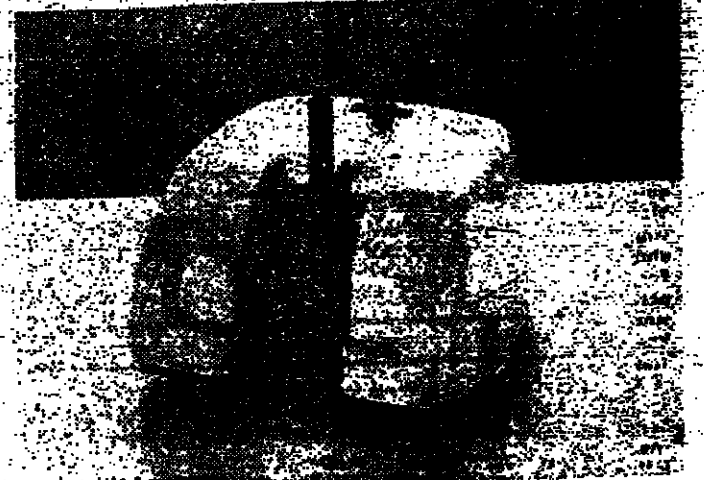
Fertile ground

The Micromouse competition, for example, has always proved fertile ground for robotics ideas. Many enthusiasts are moving on to higher things - such as the competition to build a ping-pong playing robot. If that strikes you as a somewhat banal pursuit, ask yourself why the Japanese are taking it so seriously - it has nothing to do with their interest in that sport.

Rather, it is because ping-pong epitomizes the problem of hand-eye coordination: solve that one and you can get a robot to assemble almost anything.

Certainly, some of the prime development in robotics is being undertaken in garages and garden sheds - the same way that Apple was started. Sadly, the similarity ends there: today's entrepreneurs are only too well aware of the commercial potential in robotics and are far more secretive about their work.

Meanwhile, the handful of personal robot manufacturers facing two major problems. First, the personal robot as a household servant must be the



On the drawing board: ICR's zero 2

most pre-sold product in history, thanks to the likes of R1D2. Eight years ago, it was not difficult to amaze people with what a box the size of a typewriter could do on the screen. By contrast, even the most sophisticated personal robots, costing £3,000 or more, fall far short of people's expectations.

Utility market

The second problem is one that microcomputer manufacturers also faced in the early days: how to sell such a new concept. You needed a personal computer, so the story ran eight years ago, to control your central heating and burglar alarms, manage the household accounts, and provide an automated cookbook in the kitchen.

In reality, such applications were not only pointless or undesirable, but in most cases impossible with the technology of the day. The same now applies to robots, with manufacturers quoting any number of spurious applications like controlling the house for burglar alarms, locksmiths and water saving plants.

It was several years before it was generally realized that the microcomputer did have a genuine role to play in the home as a source of entertainment and education. The sooner the proponents of the personal robot realize that can be more educational and more entertaining even than computers, the better the chance of justifying it in terms of utility value, the better the chance of having of creating a market for themselves.

UK Events

London business Equipment Exhibition - LBES, Earls Court, London, October 23-25
Electron & BBC Micro User Show, Alexandra Palace, London, October 25-26
Home Tech '84 Exhibition, Complex, Bristol, October, October 26-28
Computer Secretary Conference & Exhibition, Conference Centre, Nottingham, October 29-30
Computers in Action, Anderson Centre, Glasgow, October 30-November 1
Personal Computer Fair, Town Hall, Bournemouth, October 30-November 1

Overseas Events

Computer Conference & Exhibition - Mini/Micro West, Anaheim, USA, October 30-November 2
Australian Computer Exhibition, Sydney, Australia, November 6-9
COMDEX, Las Vegas, USA, November 14-18
Videotex Europe Exhibition & Conf, Amsterdam, Holland, November 20-22

Compiled by Personal Computer News

Missionaries of micro training

By Paul Barrett

Making your business more efficient with the aid of microcomputers may be easier than making business out of selling micros and software for office use. It is a tough, competitive market which can scare away even well-established companies.

From a business computer buyer's point of view the market appears to be polarising: you can buy a wide range of models with packages of accompanying software from one of the ever-growing numbers of cut-price merchants or spend more with one of the new style "computer centres" where you can be shepherded through the maze of choices and have your staff trained.

Not every discount merchant will sell you an unopened box with a machine and a 500-page manual of impenetrable jargon. Nor will every computer centre haughtily decline to discuss anything so base as a price concession.

Nevertheless, since the first generation of fully computer-literate youngsters is still at school and will not be office-workers and managers for a few years yet, the rest of us need guidance and training in business computers which the most aggressive discounters can now ill-afford to give. Inevitably, computer development will continue at a pace to give today's schoolchildren more to learn when they are using micros to work with.

Buying your computer from a source which offers a full training package has been an American phenomenon hitherto. Of four companies ostensibly championing full service training in Britain - Enture Computer Centres (Europe), Computerland, Interface, Network and First Computer - two have American parent corporations and two are home-grown, albeit with American styles of management.

The two American-backed entrants to the UK are Enture Computer Centres and Computerland. They are both hoping for rapid growth with franchise schemes. For Enture, training plans are still at an early stage of development; their first branch in Europe has been opened underneath a headquarters building in Slough. European Training Manager Barry Fitton plans to sell on "end-user training modules" to franchisees in due course.

Computerland, also a franchise operation, is re-appraising a strategy for Britain having expanded fast in other European markets. Control of franchise operations in Europe currently emanates from a

headquarters in Luxembourg. Not all the six UK branches opened to date run full training courses, but greater uniformity may develop as new sites open.

Interface Network and First Computer, the British-based competitors at this top end of the market, are already running a wide variety of courses. First Computer includes the cost of a basic course in the prices of most equipment and software packages. At Interface a charge is made for "The Businessman's Guide to Microcomputers" which gives a more detailed guide through machines, software and applications. Both companies charge for advanced and very specialist courses.

You can expect to pay about £87 for an Interface "Businessman's Guide" and £100 at First Computer for an introductory course beyond the free initial familiarisation. More sophisticated courses for staff once they have used micros successfully for a few months cost £120-150 per day with both Interface and First Computer.

Each company is eager to grow rapidly, with the emphasis on training skills making it as much a service sector concern as a retailer. Interface has adopted a formula for growth combining a chain of its own shops with franchised centres - their largest centre has just opened in London's High Holborn, designed to serve the City's financiers, the lawyers around Chancery Lane and most others between.

Training managers at either company combine missionary zeal that business micros and business people should be used to their full potential together with a confident calmness and thoroughness in the planning and supervision of course.

Interface's Dr Paul Dorey even espouses a willingness to train staff whose companies are not retail customers from the first. "We have developed introductory, specialised and advanced courses to train staff in everything from general administration to highly technical tasks. Each Interface Centre is at least as much a training venue as a retail showroom, but we also frequently run courses for groups in clients' offices."

The missionaries of computer training may not be in time to lift the spirits of those who see the downward spiral of discounting as ruinous, like the disillusioned management at Curry's which has pulled out of selling business micros. But if there are shamed faces by the darkened screens of underused machines in your office, salvation could be at hand.

An in-depth study of personal computers.

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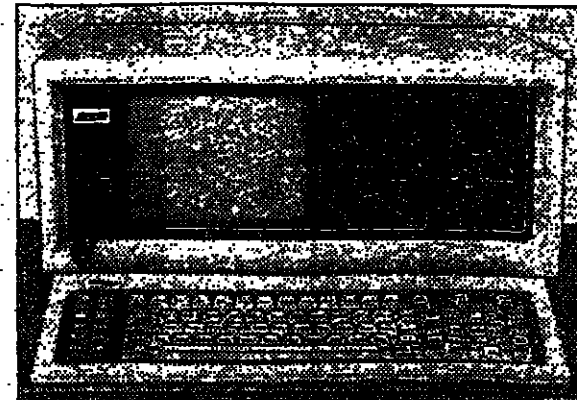
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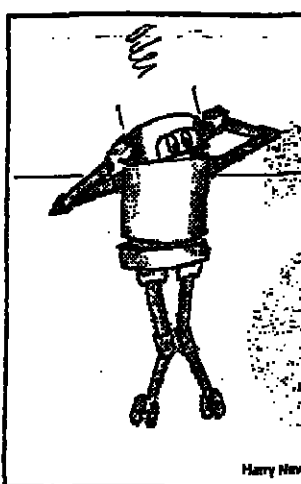
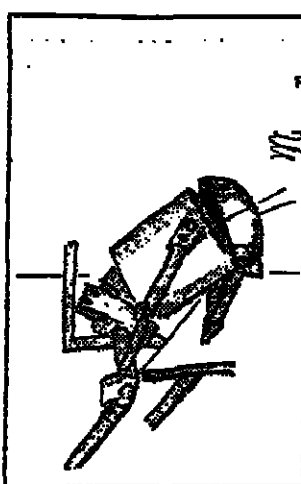
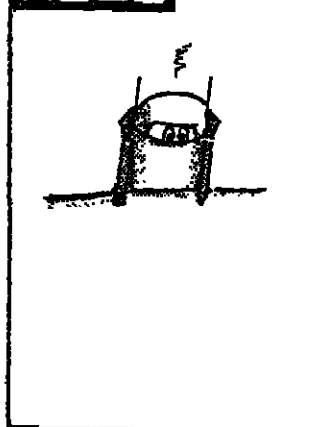
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AGOG

I KEEP GETTING THESE
FUNNY BEEPS IN MY HEAD.

RAF controllers learning the quick way flying micro-air

By Maggie McLenig

Computerized simulation has revolutionized the final training of air traffic control officers and now it is being extended to teach basic theory - using a low-cost micro system. This has been developed by the staff at the RAF's training school at Shawbury, just outside Shrewsbury, and a variation may be adopted by airfields throughout Britain and West Germany, to initiate incoming controllers into the lingo and terminology of their new station.

RAF Shawbury is the RAF's air traffic control school and 250 students a year tackle the 17-week course. They may be pilot officers straight from school, graduates or sergeants, but all must have passed aptitude tests for one of the most responsible and nerve-racking ground staff jobs.

Flight-Lieutenant "Jack" Lees, who heads this software development team at Shawbury, says: "Two of the main



The standard air traffic control room at RAF Shawbury

resonance of radar on a micro screen. High-resolution graphics were absolutely essential, together with frequent updating so that training aircraft at 180 knots would not result in a false progress across the

There are exams throughout the course - an assessment of skills, abilities and potential. Students are given a place from Day One. The first exam is in three weeks, and the second is in six weeks. They may all pass, but only a few will be selected for the final exam.

Lees says: "The first exam is a written test. It covers the basics of air traffic control. The second exam is a practical test. It covers the use of the micro system. The final exam is a written test. It covers the advanced topics of air traffic control.

The first major training exercise introduced was the recording where an aircraft had been: something that even our biggest simulators cannot provide," explained Flt. Lt. Lees.

At this point the system effectively became two: one which could be used for local familiarisation, using video maps of different airfields, and a sophisticated training tool. Four of the former systems are currently being evaluated at RAF Shawbury, UK and West Germany, an official decision is expected to supply it to 30 of the RAF's airfields, at a cost of £800 per control

Once the training systems are completed, the RAF may sell them under license. Oman is starting its own school because it costs the country £100,000 to send a student to Shawbury, so a micro system would represent a saving.

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Ocean, Sinclair take on Imagine men

By Frank Brown

Imagine could well continue as a brand name in computer games, even though the company went into liquidation earlier this year with debts in the region of £1m.

As the result of negotiations with Imagine's liquidator, Mr Christopher Chambers, the name, logo and trading style of the Liverpool company have been acquired by its great rival in Manchester, Ocean Software, along with some completed programs and software development equipment, which constitute a major portion of Imagine's assets.

The rest of the assets, comprising the so-called "Mega-games", which Imagine had planned to introduce, have been acquired by Sir Clive Sinclair, who intends to develop them for the QL, now appearing in the shops.

Ocean and Sinclair have each taken on an ex-Imagine software person on a freelance basis to develop games that were in the pipeline when the Liverpool company crashed. Sinclair, for example, has retained the services of Dave Lawson and Ian Hetherington, two founder members of Imagine, to adapt and develop a game called Bandersnatch for QL. The two ex-directors have formed a company called Fireon for the purpose, and Bandersnatch is likely to be in the shops early next year.

Ocean has taken on a complete games software devel-

opment team of eight people, including artists and sound-effects people as well as programmers, who are now working in Liverpool on a number of animated strategy games, the first of which will appear next month. Commenting on what Ocean will do with the Imagine name, director David Ward said that he was considering relaunching the label, particularly overseas.

"Imagine undoubtedly played a key part in pioneering the games software industry and significantly increased the UK share of export markets," he said. "Our overseas agents say there is still a big demand for Imagine products and we are currently negotiating with a number of distributors and software interests in Europe on the licensing and marketing of the Imagine name outside the UK. However, we need to do more market research before we can formulate a policy and decide precisely when to resurrect the Imagine label."

The two acquisitions come at a time when hundreds of companies in the industry are gearing up with a stack of new games for Christmas - at least 1,000 new titles have been launched in the last week, according to Ocean's market researchers. Since shops are more selective than ever in taking on new games, there are obviously going to be many losers in the game of selling home computer software.

The mighty mouse may have last roar

Using a mouse: better than others

By Frank Wheelwright

The new breed of Apricot personal computers, which Applied Computer Technologies (ACT) has promised to start shipping as dealers by the end of this month, is the latest in a growing army of micro-dedicated to "strangling" the computer user from the keyboard.

In computer parlance, the keyboard is known as an "input device" because it is the principal mechanism by which to get information into the machine. The new machines produced by ACT and others are designed to encourage the use of anything other than the keyboard.

The search for other input devices began about five years ago. Some bright spark decided that vast numbers of executives had "keyboard fear".

But it has only been in the last six months that computers which address that fear are finally coming to market. Computers such as the Macintosh, Hewlett Packard's HP-150 and the new Apricot machines all offer different options to solving the keyboard fear question.

These range from speech input, which lets you use a microphone to yell commands into your micro (as used on the ACT Apricot portable) to the "mouse" input, in which you roll a mouse-shaped piece of plastic around on your desk in order to "move" information around the screen.

Though the mouse is by far

the most popular alternative device, Apple and ACT have been on a range of machines, and a large number of companies is producing mouse input systems for machines from the BBC micro to the IBM PC - speech is the trendiest.

Hewlett-Packard has pinned much of its hopes on making an impact in the PC market on its HP-150, a machine distinguished by its unique touch-screen input facility. And in more specialist fields, touchpads and light-pens are making an impact.

Despite the vast amount of work that has been put into developing options to the keyboard, the payoff has been slow and limited. ACT, in its new Apricot machines, offers a mouse although few of the software titles that run on the Apricot make use of either.

It seems that because ACT's Apricot and HP's 150 can be operated quite happily from the keyboard, software houses are loath to spend extra time configuring packages so they recognize speech of mouse input. The only company to have wide success in getting software support for its alternative input device is Apple.

Apple's Macintosh has received this support because Apple is a big company and because you cannot use software on the Macintosh that doesn't recognize the mouse, the only way you can use a Macintosh program is by operating it with a mouse, and therefore companies which wanted to develop software for the Mac have had to take account of the mouse.

So despite the development of all these substitutes for the keyboard, it seems that only the mighty mouse will be heard above the roar.

There's one good thing about the electronic postman - the dog won't bite it

THE POSTMAN

By Maggie McLenig

Electronic mail service is a new way of approval to British Telecom's electronic mail service.

Most people have never read Marshall McLuhan. If they had, they would have realised that you cannot pretend that anything which needs to be read at a screen can masquerade as the Royal Mail. The electronic postman is a different sort of message.

Email - I know, it is ugly but that seems to be the accepted abbreviation - is living proof that the people who are spearheading the computer

most popular in Britain - now occupy the place in national life which, around 1900, must have been reserved for the postman. The electronic postman is a different sort of message.

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So much so that most cars are back on the road again in under an hour.

The RAC have put on over 800,000 new members since 1980. (A time during which the membership of some of our competitors seems to have stood still.)

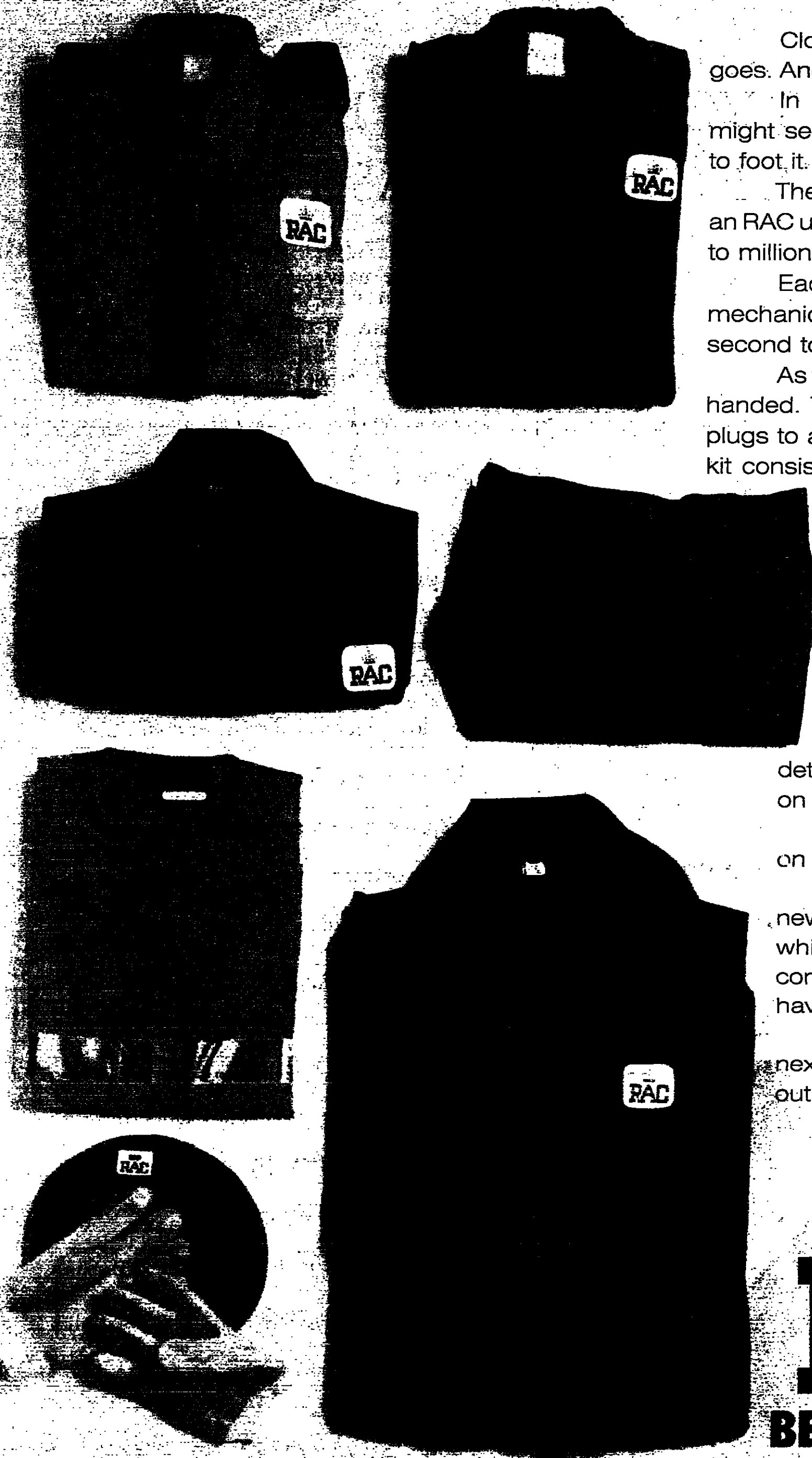
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To date we have successfully supported over 8,000 businesses, from small-scale family to major multinational companies.

Together we couldn't go wrong. Because they used their imagination. And we used ours.

THE CREATIVE USE OF MONEY

THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Fletcher banishes all thoughts of an SEC

In July 1981, the Government responded in the classic manner to a series of headline grabbing financial scares. Mr John Biffen, then Secretary of State for Trade and Industry and a man not unversed in the practices, good and bad, of the City of London, called for a report on the state of investor protection, from the indefatigable and experienced hand of Professor Laurence "Jim" Gower. It landed on the desk of Mr Biffen's successor, Mr Norman Tebbit, in January this year.

Tomorrow, in Mr Tebbit's regrettable absence, Mr Alex Fletcher will reveal more of the Department's crystallized thoughts on the future regulation of the City and the protection savers and investors may reasonably expect from the new legislation.

Professor Gower made the keynote statement in his report when he said that the protection given to investors "should be no greater than is necessary to protect reasonable people from being made fools of". Protecting fools from their own folly is an impossible task and should not be attempted even by the woolliest of governments.

The question of how best to balance the operational needs of a free and competitive savings market and the protection from sharks, swimming within and outside the law, the investing public, particularly the private investor, has a legitimate right to expect. Hitherto governments, including Labour Governments, have subscribed to the City's non-disinterested line that within a broad legal framework, self-regulation is both British and best.

It may be, but the present Government is disinclined to swallow the line whole. For three very good reasons. The present system has been shown to have weaknesses that need government attention; in the brave new world where useful distinctions between agents and principals will be buried somewhere within huge financial conglomerates, the investor will need much more help and guidance than he does now; and many of the new operators in the British savings market, more familiar with a well-defined legal framework through which they can work are unlikely to respond adequately to the spirit of the traditional British self-regulatory service.

The Government, however, intends to stop short of a US-styled securities and Exchange Commission. An SEC would not be appropriate in Britain, Mr Fletcher told a Unit Trust Association conference yesterday. He did not intend to anticipate the Government's White Paper on financial services but he did wish to explain why the Government had held to its view on an SEC. "It is not just because it would be another quango. There are more substantial and positive reasons for preferring self-regulation. First self-regulation has the great advantage of being market led, and the regulatory activities can be conducted by a mix of practitioners and users of the service."

Second, self-regulation should allow the City to retain its distinct and important flexibility in conducting day-to-day business. With all due respect to the lawyers among us, we do not want to impose a commission with a detailed set of statutes and regulations which would require you to have a legal eagle at your elbow every time you do business with each other. We have learnt from the experience of other countries and want to introduce in Britain a system which will foster innovation, and one not stifled or held back by rigidly legalistic or bureaucratic procedures. And of course, in terms of investor protection, we want the users of financial services to be fully represented. After all, the markets do exist for their users."

Chunnel men hope for entente cordiale

Things are moving again on the Channel tunnel front. Officials from the Department of Transport are flying to Paris on Thursday for discussions with their French counterparts about the state of play in this most veteran of proposed Anglo-French collaborative ventures.

Meanwhile, the backers of the two or three main fixed-link schemes are making a determined last ditch attempt to bend the Government's ear in their favour. Prominent among them are the Euroroute consortium, whose £40,000m scheme for a combined bridge and tunnel over the Channel, is the most ambitious of the lot.

There is a lot of activity behind the scenes in Whitehall and Downing Street, the question is whether it adds up to anything substantial. The full weight of the Government's information machine was brought to bear yesterday, dismissing as unfounded suggestions that a deal will be tied up between Mrs Thatcher and President Mitterrand when he arrives for his three-day state visit next week.

The Channel link is not even on the agenda, according to Whitehall. There is little reason to doubt it. The formal position is that the British and French governments need to make a final decision whether to proceed with a link by early next year.

The government has repeatedly made clear its view that it will not back any scheme which requires any form of state financial guarantee. The line emanating from Whitehall yesterday was that there is still no question of the Government changing its mind. So why all the fuss? Partly, no doubt, it can be explained by the fact that no decision means the tunnellers can go on hoping. But it also reflects the changed political climate, with all the recent signs that the Government is switching its attention to increasingly to the unemployment problem.

What the Channel backers have to offer above all is jobs: in the case of Euroroute, 50,000 to 100,000 spread over a period of years, and concentrated in unemployment black spots such as Teesside.

It is hard to see economic dries such as Mr Ridley buying the Channel tunnel arguments now, any more than in the past. But what of the Prime Minister and the rest of the Cabinet. Again it seems unlikely, but the decision of the Channel could be developing into a litmus test of the Government's new employment emphasis.

Old Lady's three conjuring tricks

Bankers Trust cut its prime rate yesterday from 12½ per cent to 12¼ per cent, and in the process weakened the dollar fractionally against sterling, which promptly rose from its floor of \$1.2060 to \$1.2085 - a record low. This brought some relief to the Bank of England which was busy trying to keep three balls in the air while simultaneously accommodating its political masters.

The first floated over the gilt market. Conventional stocks had a ragged day but demand for index linked stocks remained firm, gaining half a point. This move justified the bank's issue of "tablets" on Friday, although the Government is not thought to have sold any new stock.

The second ball was seen in the money markets. Exceptional technical factors prompted the Bank to announce a £1 billion sale and repurchase arrangement, which will not expire until November 14. The arrangement whereby banks' gilt holdings are traded into the Bank of England for cash which boosts liquidity is huge, equivalent to as much as 1 per cent of the eligible liabilities of all banks and authorized deposit takers. The Bank has been forced to make the issue partly because its funding sales of government stock were so aggressive in the first half of the fiscal year, draining funds out of the market.

The market immediately read the arrangement as a sign from the Bank that it had no plans to engineer a rise in interest rates to protect sterling. But it also has the look of a long term deal. It could be a preemptive move to head off money market shortages over Christmas, when importers will be forced to speed up their VAT payments dramatically, from about 77 days either to cash-on-delivery or a maximum delay of 28 days. Money market pressures and official intervention may well be a feature of the next few weeks trading.

The third ball had British Telecom written on it. Institutions are flush with cash, ahead of the British Telecom issue, but this apparently has no bearing on the overall state of money market liquidity. Bank and Treasury have been highly successful in engineering a big reservoir of pension funds cash. But will it go into the market? It is risky at present to buy gilts; it is also risky to sell the market. The current state of uncertainty was summed up yesterday by one wag. "The Bank can take an investor to the bar, but can't force him to buy the authorities a drink."

BNOC under pressure after Norway cuts N Sea prices

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Pressure on Britain to cut its official North Sea oil price and consequently its dollar earnings is growing in the wake of Norway's decision yesterday to reduce its oil prices to below the \$29 a barrel market price set by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec).

The cut will make Norwegian crude more than \$1 cheaper than the British.

The state-owned British National Oil Corporation (BNOC), through which all North Sea oil from the British sector is traded, has also met oil company opposition to its attempts to hold the fourth-quarter price at \$30 a barrel.

Suggestions that BNOC will be forced into following Norway have already hit the pound and the prices of British oil company shares.

With all oil contracts conducted in dollars the Government

has been determined to hold prices firm as the fall in the value of sterling against the dollar means that revenue from the North Sea steadily rises.

It has been estimated that in this financial year the fall in sterling could bring the Treasury an extra £1 billion from the North Sea.

The Norwegian state oil company Statoil, yesterday confirmed that it is to offer its customers a new one-month contract which will price its North Sea crude at below its previous official market price of \$30.10, but above the present spot market price for Norwegian crude of \$28.20 and below the Opec price.

Statoil, which like BNOC, had previously offered crude on three-month contracts, said that the move to offer one-month contracts had been designed to remove as much Norwegian

crude as possible from the spot market.

BNOC started to renegotiate its fourth quarter contracts on October 1 with firm instructions from the government to defend its \$30 a barrel market price. Although most of the leading companies have indicated acceptance of the BNOC proposals there is still considerable resistance and last night BNOC said that negotiations were "not 100 per cent complete".

However, many of its customers will now be seeking a renegotiation of the price structure after Norway's decision. Of the tradable crude oil which BNOC handles - the rest is sold to BNOC by the major producers and then immediately bought back at the agreed price - 400,000 barrels a day are sold on contract and 300,000 barrels a day are traded on the

spot market at lower prices.

An oil industry analyst said last night that the BNOC price policy was regarded by the oil companies as a "politically motivated structure" which no one is following, with the result that more and more British North Sea oil is finding its way on to the spot market.

Britain may be able to resist an official price cut because of the comparative insignificance of Norwegian output to world supplies - fewer than 700,000 barrels a day compared with more than 2 million by Britain - and if the Opec countries stick to the price and output quota agreement first set in London in March 1983.

A rise in demand in Northern Europe and North America as winter approaches would also push up prices on the spot market and allow official market prices to remain firm.

Hopes of a Dixons-Currys deal

By Christopher Dunn

Hopes of a better bid from Dixons for Curry's and a negotiated settlement in the £182m bid battle between the two high street electrical goods chains remained high last night, despite a continuing war of words between the two sides.

Mr Stanley Kalms, chairman of Dixons, said: "I have been known in my time to negotiate", later acknowledging that he might be prepared to bridge the current 20p gap between his original offer of 390p and Curry's latest 409p quotation, ex-dividend, assuming that an agreed deal could be negotiated.

Mr Kalms plans to press his formal offer of 390p a share to Curry's shareholders tomorrow. Earlier in the day, Mr Kalms

said he was disappointed that Curry's chairman, Mr Jeff Benson, had refused so far to arrange a meeting with him. "We would have liked to have talks," he added. "At the end of the day we will have to talk. We would like to negotiate a recommendation in the best interests of everyone."

The Curry's camp promptly retorted that it had not refused to arrange discussions with Mr Kalms. "We are prepared to talk to anyone at any time in the interests of Curry's shareholders," said Mr Terry Curry, Curry's managing director.

It is understood that the Curry's camp kept open the

option of a meeting with Dixons in a letter from Mr Benson to Mr Kalms late last week, when the Curry's chairman stated categorically that the Curry's board was willing to listen to any firm proposals from Dixons which would be in the interests of shareholders, adding that it was open to Mr Kalms to make such proposals.

But the acrimonious tone of the bid battle was maintained when Mr Benson went on to criticize Mr Kalms for bringing the bid into the public arena, without any private and prior discussion. It is understood that Mr Benson rejected the idea of any discussion on the basis of what had been said so far.

Beazer buys M P Kent for £33.5m

By Jeremy Warner

C. H. Beazers (Holdings), the fast-growing construction and housebuilding group, yesterday emerged as the mystery suitor for M. P. Kent, the property development group, which announced last week that it was in takeover talks.

Beazer has agreed takeover terms, worth £33.5m in total. The offer consists of 1.5 million shares plus 350p in cash for every nine Kent shares. The Kent directors have irrevocably agreed to accept the offer.



Brian Beazer: "Just an investment"

No sooner had the bid been made than the stock market was alive with talk that Beazer will soon be following the acquisition with the more ambitious move of a takeover bid for The Bath and Portland Group, in which Mr P. Kent has an 18.1 per cent stake.

According to unconfirmed reports, Bath and Portland, a quarrying and construction group, which, like Beazer, is based in Bath, attempted to acquire Beazer's possibly hostile intentions, by making its own approach to M P Kent over the weekend. But this was rejected in favour of better terms from Beazer.

When Kent bought the 18.1 per cent stake in Bath and Portland last month, it agreed not to make a bid without the prior agreement of Bath and Portland directors. Mr Brian Beazer, the chairman of C H Beazer, declined to comment on his intentions regarding the stake. "For the moment it is just an investment," he said. *Tempus, page 26*

American car union in deal at Ford

From Philip Robinson, New York

America's two largest car makers looked set yesterday for three years of industrial peace following a tentative pay and job security agreement between the United Auto Workers' Union and Ford Motor Company.

Details of the three-year Ford plan have not been released but are understood to be similar to an agreement already reached between the auto workers and General Motors. That agreement received the approval of 57 per cent of GM's 350,000 auto union members at the weekend.

Ford's agreement was reached after 24 hours of talks during which Mr Peter J. Feenik, the car company's chief negotiator, is said to have lost his voice.

Key to the agreement is a \$300m (£248m) job security clause which guarantees pay for six years to any employee who

has been with the company more than 12 months and whose job is displaced by automation.

The Ford agreement looks likely to offer a 3 per cent rise in wages and a 2 1/2 per cent rise in the first two following years.

Unconfirmed reports suggest that Ford has also agreed not to close any further plants for four years.

The company says it also has local agreements on working conditions completed with 38 of its 88 US factories.

The union's 200-member Ford council meets tomorrow to consider the entire package. If approved, it would go to the union's 114,000 Ford members for vote.

Ford points out that in the current year, employees will receive almost £1,700 apiece from the profit-sharing plan agreed in 1982.

\$300m Standard Chartered note

Standard Chartered is raising \$300m (£248m) with a perpetual floating rate note. The issue, to bolster the bank's capital base, follows the \$600m perpetual loan issued by Barclays last week.

Standard Chartered's issue, lead-managed by Credit Suisse First Boston, comes with warrants attached, enabling investors to purchase a fixed-rate bond denominated in dollars or sterling. The FRNS carry interest at 1/4 per cent above London interbank offered rate.

Nedo calls for more spending

By Jonathan Davis, Business Correspondent

The Government should spend more time and money on building roads, sewers and other "infrastructure" projects, according to a report by the National Economic Development Office.

The report on the prospects for Britain's construction industry up to the year 1990, says the industry can look forward to modest growth. An increasing proportion of the work will be devoted to repair, maintenance

Former BP chief to join Britoil

By Our Energy Correspondent

Mr David Walker, an Australian geologist who was responsible for the successful development of BP's oil fields in Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, is to become chief executive of Britoil.

Britoil, formed from the Government's North-Sea exploration and production assets, is about to start on a new round of exploration in the North Sea and abroad. It has been run by chairman Sir Philip Shelbourne and two joint managing directors Mr Malcolm Firth and Mr Ian Clarke.

Mr Walker, aged 50, has been in the UK oil industry and is regarded as one of the leading experts in the exploration and development of oil fields.

Mr Firth and Mr Clarke will continue as their counterparts in the new company. Mr Clarke, concentrating on exploration, has been in charge of the main programme since 1982. Mr Walker has worked for BP since 1959, and has been director of exploration development since 1982.

Pound falls sharply

The stock market bounced higher yesterday despite a sharp fall in sterling's value against the dollar.

The FT-SE 100 index finished at a new closing peak of 1146.8, up 2.3, having been at a high of 1147.3 during the day. The dollar climbed higher after a 1/2 per cent prime rate cut in the US by Bankers Trust, and optimism on the continuing talks to resolve the airline strike boosted the stock market.

Good provisional retail sales figures for September and a rise in manufacturing output of 0.9 per cent in August also helped. The FT-30 share index closed 5.6 higher at 881.6.

The dollar climbed higher against the pound despite the fall in US interest rates to close at \$1.2085 against a previous close at \$1.2260. Sterling's effective trade weighted index against a basket of currencies closed at 75.9 compared with 76.6.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 index 1,146.8 up 2.3 (high 1,147.3; low 1,143.3)
FT index 881.6 up 5.6
FT 30 index 881.6 up 5.6
FT All Share Index 881.6 up 5.6
Bargains 21.00
Datastream USM Leaders Index 104.19 up 0.55
New York: Dow Jones Industrial Average (last) 1188.08 up 1.00
Hopes of a Dixons-Currys deal 107.76 up 0.50
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 998.08 up 15.96
Amsterdam: 179.5 up 1.31
Sydney: All Ordinaries 52.5 up 3.3
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index 1,078.9 up 4.6
Brussels: CAC Index 181.4 down 0.62
Paris: CAC Index 181.4 down 0.62
Zurich: SBA General 309.90 up 0.50

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE

Sterling index 75.9 down 0.7 (range 75.8-76.8)
\$1.2085 down 1.75 cents
DM 3.7950 down 0.0050
FF 1.4950 down 0.0450
Yen 160.00 down 3.0
Dollars:
Index 100 = 100
DM 3.1468 up 0.0440
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.2100
Dollar DM 3.1420
INTEREST RATES
ECU 0.50083
SDR 0.80801

INTEREST RATES

Bank of England (per cent):
3 month 11 1/2
6 month 12 1/2
12 month 13 1/2
US prime 7 1/2
3 month US 7 1/2
6 month US 7 1/2
12 month US 7 1/2
German 3 month 10 1/2
6 month 11 1/2
12 month 12 1/2
Japanese 3 month 5 1/2
6 month 5 1/2
12 month 5 1/2
Swiss 3 month 5 1/2
6 month 5 1/2
12 month 5 1/2

GOVERNMENT

3 month 11 1/2
6 month 12 1/2
12 month 13 1/2
US prime 7 1/2
3 month US 7 1/2
6 month US 7 1/2
12 month US 7 1/2
German 3 month 10 1/2
6 month 11 1/2
12 month 12 1/2
Japanese 3 month 5 1/2
6 month 5 1/2
12 month 5 1/2
Swiss 3 month 5 1/2
6 month 5 1/2
12 month 5 1/2

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

has taken the first formal step to taking the British Government to the European Court of Justice over an alleged breach of the rules governing items which are zero-rated for VAT purposes. The Commission has sent the government a "reasoned opinion" which challenges the zero-rating on such items as newspaper advertisements and the supply of fuel and power to businesses.

NEWS IN BRIEF

New offices for insurer

The Save & Prosper Group, the insurance and financial services company, is moving its City of London headquarters to 1 Finsbury Avenue, the 260,000 sq ft building developed by Rosehaugh-Greycoats City Office. Save & Prosper is taking 20,000 sq ft on the ground and first floors.

ALBERT FISHER increased pretax profits in the year to August 31 to £1.1m against £327,000 on turnover of £44.4m against 1.5p net against 1p net. *Tempus, page 26*
UEI, the electronics and engineering group, has increased pretax profits for the half year to July 31 to £4.6m, up from £4.2m. Turnover rose from £32.1m to £36.3m. The interim dividend is the same again at 2p. *Tempus, page 26*

Building societies say £5,000 loan ceiling is restrictive

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Building societies have welcomed government proposals to allow them wider powers to compete with banks and other institutions, but view a number of the Government's detailed proposals as too restrictive.

The Building Societies Association wants freedom to lend larger amounts of unsecured loans to individuals within the overall limits suggested. It says the proposed ceiling of £5,000 for the maximum unsecured loan to any individual is "unduly restrictive" and a higher figure would be more appropriate.

The Government in a recent Green Paper, envisaged building societies as specialists in housing finance and personal savings, but with the ability to move into other activities such

as unsecured lending, credit cards, insurance and conveyancing. The Building Societies' Association's official response, published today, welcomes the general approach of the green paper but recommends some changes on "matters of detail rather than principle".

Government proposals to limit the amount of money which building societies can raise from wholesale money markets to 20 per cent of total funds is also described as restrictive.

The BSA suggests a figure of 30 per cent, with the remaining 70 per cent of funds raised from individual members, would be more appropriate. The societies also take issue with the proposal that they

should pay the full cost incurred by the Registry in the movement of Agency Societies. The Registry recovered 10 per cent of its £2.5m cost from the institutions, largely building societies, which it regarded as beneficiaries.

The BSA points out that extension cases have been allowed to expand into Europe, a subject on which the government has asked for further comments. The Association wants powers for societies to grant mortgages in other EEC countries.

The BSA disavows fears that societies moving into estate agency business could lead to conflicts of interest. It suggests that full estate agency services should be offered through subsidiaries.

"London Shop Property Trust quietly confident"

Mr. Philip Jones, Chairman of London Shop Property Trust, commenting on the year ended 30th April, 1984, reports that the Trust's business is to be quietly confident in the future of the property market and the quality of the property portfolio.

Group profit before tax increased from £2,500,000 to £3,000,000. Dividend for year recommended at 60p per share. Increase of 15%; Board recommending extraordinary dividend of 10p per share per year over the next three years.

The property portfolio was increased by 10% in 1984 and is now £100m. The Trust has a 240.66 per cent increase in its share price since the beginning of 1983. The Trust has been successful in raising a total of £12.2m for the purchase of property. £2.0m have been allocated to the purchase of property.

debenture stock has recently been issued - this will enable the continuation of the active expansion programme. The aim of the Board continues to be the improvement of both capital and income and shareholders can look forward to this improvement being maintained.

Profit before taxation £2,500,000 £2,745,000
Profit after taxation £2,000,000 £2,046,000
Dividend per ordinary share 6.625p 5.75p

Copies of the 1984 Report and Financial Statements are available from the Company Secretary, London Shop Property Trust, 179-187 Arthur Road, London E1 1AA.



STOCK MARKET REPORT

Record close for FT-SE index

By Derek Pain

Equities, as measured by the FT-SE 100 share index, achieved a new closing peak yesterday. The latest round of pit strike talks and strengthening hopes of lower interest rates helped give the new account a confident send-off.

"Footsie" ended at 1,146.0 points, up 2.3 points. Earlier it had been even higher - at 1,147.3 points.

There is no doubt that the market's performance would have been even more impressive if the Norwegians had not

There were, for a different reason, some acute casualties among the second liners.

The Irish oil triplets - Eglinton, Bryson and Osceola - were severely mauled when Eglinton announced that it had abandoned its latest borehole at Loric in the republic of Colombia. South America. All three companies have an interest in the prospect, for which investor hopes have driven the Eglinton price as high as 245p and Bryson up to 715p this year.

Yesterday Bryson fell 40p to 213p, Eglinton 18p to 63p and Osceola 10p to 75p. The grimest item in the statement was that Eglinton is now undecided on a future drilling programme. It is understood to be three months before they can resume drilling, and may have to give up some of its interest through a farm-out to one of the oil leaders. Bryson is more flush with cash, but the stakes are rising.

The FT 30 share index, in contrast to "Footsie", closed at its best level of the day at 881.6 points, up 5.6 points. It is at its highest point since May.

Takeover stocks continued to provide much of the market action. Timber group Mayer International rose 6p to 129p before closing at 125p.

DRG shrugged off an array of sell recommendations and closed unchanged at 180p. It dipped to 177p in early trading and then hit 184p before relapsing to its overnight level.

Lucas Industries returned to the takeover spotlight, closing just a shade off its best at 241p. Once again the Rockwell Group of America was rumoured to be the preparing to launch a takeover bid.

The food sector remained rose. Rowntree Macintosh at one time hit 350p and Unigate jumped 7p to 147p in response to a favourite brokers circular. Dealings are expected to start today in Iceland Frozen Foods. An opening price of 285p is expected against the share sale 210p level.

Stores were in demand, with buying helped by the 3 per cent plus in September retail sales. Great Universal Stores "A" rose 18p to 637p and Barron Group 5p to 317p. Marks & Spencer, the subject of some bearish comment recently, gained 2p to 119p; Etam jumped 6p to 122p and J. Hepworth was 8p higher at 312p.

Government stocks, at one time recording gains of more than 2½, closed with advances of about ¼. Inflation gilt achieved further progress of up to ¼ although they were at one time up to ½ higher.

West Bromwich Spring has lifted its shareholding in F. S. Ratcliffe Industries to 22.2 per cent but Mr David Cooper-Smith, chairman of both companies, denies any merger intentions. However, the market believes a bid for Ratcliffe could be near and yesterday lifted the shares 11p to 61p. WBS shares were 2½p higher at 8½p.

placing level T & S Stores enjoyed an 8p advance from its 90p placing price.

The agreed bid from C. H. Beazer for M. P. Kent lifted the shares 10p to 76p, triggering a 10p jump to 212p by Bath and Portland, where Kent has an 18.1 per cent shareholding.

William Leech, once the subject of an abortive Beazer bid, fell 6p to 124p. Bryant Building, another building group, gained 2p to 64p following record profits.

Chubb, the security group,

Despite bad debt fears, profits of Imperial Chemical Industries was 4p better to 686p ahead of next week's third quarter figures. Nove Industries the once high flying Danish drugs company, fell 5p to £22.75, as brokers downgraded profit expectations following the company's decision to reduce its own sales forecast.

Marler Estates, the property group embroiled in the tangled redevelopment of Stamford Bridge (home of Chelsea FC) rose 13p to 123p on the prospects of rent control restrictions being eased. Anglo Indonesian Corporation gained 13p to 218p ahead of figures.

Macranite House fell 5p to 279p following disappointment with the performance of its US off-shoot Oppenheimer and Co.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

● **BONUSBOND HOLDINGS:** Six months to June 30. (Figures in £000). Turnover 2,614 (3,743). Gross profit 448 (467). Distribution and administration costs 440 (337). Other operating income 21 (24). Interest receivable 67 (58). Interest payable 36 (35). Pretax profit 60 (loss 23). Tax 32 (2). Earnings per share basis 0.81p (loss 0.73p); fully diluted 0.57p (loss 0.51p).

● **ANTOFAGASTA HOLDINGS:** Six months to June 30. Interim dividend 5p (3p), payable on November 9. (Figures in £000). Turnover 7,263 (6,197). Pretax profit 2,730 (1,677). Tax 582 (795). Exchange and inflation 4 debit (141 debit). Earnings per share 32.7p (13.1p).

● **TURNER & NEWALL:** and Auto Products are to merge their filtration interests into a joint venture company to be called Cooper AP Filters. The new company will operate from next month. It is expected to have an annual turnover of about £20m and assets of £6m.

● **HOME FARM PRODUCTS:** Chairman Mr John Micklethwaite says in his annual statement that although the three months since year-end indicate that the company is trading at a profit, this is not as satisfactory as last year. Present high price for pigs is still not compensated for by a corresponding increase in price for the company's finished products, and thus margins are adversely affected.

● **ELBAR INDUSTRIAL:** has announced the following disposals: Industrial Energy Systems to Economics; Spey Trading to Groomshaw. The disposals will further reduce the group borrowings and will also significantly improve its trading performance.

● **EVODER GROUP:** Chairman Mr A. Simon says in a circular that the group's recent acquisitions are performing well and the directors intend to recommend an increase in the final dividend of 15 per cent line with the increased interim dividend already paid.

● **ARMOUR TRUST:** Results for the year to April 3. Dividend 0.182p (0.165p). (Figures in £000). Turnover 8,178 (8,377). Pretax profit 321 (295). Tax 25 (26). Extraordinary debit deferred tax 74 (nil) and other credit 27 (credit 64). Minorities debt 1 (debit 4). Earnings per share 1.5p (1.1p).

TEMPUS

Beazer pounces while Bryant fears a bid

C H Beazer (Holdings), the fast-moving construction and house-building group run by Mr Brian Beazer, has recovered in double-quick time from the setback its ambitions received in the summer when it failed in its takeover bid for William Leech.

Yesterday it announced details of an offer - agreed this time - for M P Kent which will take it into property development, one of the other areas it identified for expansion last May when it sold off its building materials division for £28.6m.

However, the really intriguing thing about this acquisition is the 18.1 per cent stake in Bath and Portland Group that goes with it. The stock market believes that Mr Beazer will use the stake as a platform for a bid and accordingly mark Bath and Portland's share price up 19p yesterday to 212p.

The stock market is not the only one, for it would appear that Bath and Portland got wind of the Beazer bid for its largest shareholder and attempted to preempt it over the weekend with an offer of its own to the M P Kent directors. They turned it down in the face of better terms from Beazer.

Bath and Portland would be a natural target for Beazer, consolidating its strong West Country presence. But bidding for it may not be as easy as it seems. For a start there is a price tag of at least £40m.

Then there is the restraint attached to the 18.1 per cent stake. When M P Kent bought the shares it signed a written agreement not to make a disputed takeover bid. And Bath and Portland is in no mood for an agreed takeover.

So for the moment Beazer may have to be content with restoring M P Kent to its former glories. There is plenty of potential, for Kent once made yearly profits of £4.8m. This compares with last year's £750,000.

Meanwhile, another house-builder, Bryant Holdings, checked in the annual profits up from £7.7m to £11.3m. The Bryant board may also be boxing clever over its forecast in case a bid materializes. This year's statement carefully spells out the time-value composition of the land-bank, which is worth £39m, or five years' supply at current sales levels. It also includes a

revaluation of the Bryant investment properties to £25.4m, generating a development surplus of £600,000. Net borrowings have also fallen to £6.9m (£7.9m), or just 13 per cent of shareholders' funds.

Shareholders have not overlooked the final dividend increase to 3p (1.65p), to give a full year payment of 3p, up 36 per cent on the previous year. The historic p/c comes out at just under 7, making the shares an attractive speculative investment, with the underlying protection at present levels of solid trading prospects.

Albert Fisher

Albert Fisher, the fruit and vegetable merchant, has come a long way since Mr Tony Millar, formerly deputy chairman of Hawley Group, took over as chairman in March 1982.

Taxable profits in the year to end August 1984 were £1.1m against £327,000 in 1983 and losses of £29,000 in 1982. The company has made four big acquisitions in the last year and managed to extract a greatly improved performance from them. On a pro-forma basis, including the results of F. J. Need and Henry Long, Fisher's profits were up by 39 per cent in 1984 on turnover up 35 per cent.

The company's first overseas expansion and its most ambitious acquisition yet was the Carnival Fruit company, based in Miami. Costing up to £5.5m, it will have a big impact on this year's results.

Dollar borrowings taken out to match total US assets will mean the previous completely unborrowed, cash-in-hand position will change to gearing of 30 per cent. The tax charge will rise this year, as capital allowances and tax losses run out, to about 30 per cent compared with 19 per cent.

Assuming taxable profits of £2.5m, the prospective p/c ratio on shares up 2p at 112p is 13, which shows more growth is expected. The shares have had a sharp run-up since the Carnival acquisition a month ago and are unlikely to outperform further in the short-term.

UEI could be on the way to clawing back some of the glamour rating it lost so dramatically last year when its

share price tumbled from 345p to 138p. The abrupt downturn in earnings growth which prompted the fall is now behind the company and yesterday's interim results demonstrated that profits are once again on the increase.

At the pretax level, they increased from £4.2m to £4.6m although the figures mask the varying fortunes of the electronics and engineering divisions. On the electronics side, profits improved by a third to £4m as Quantel, the group's main subsidiary, stepped up production which brought reductions in unit costs.

Engineering activities, however, saw profits fall by £300,000 to £1.3m. The fall was almost entirely due to the write-off of vehicle design expenditure at Quest 80. There was more encouraging news from both Cosworth and Yewlands which had posed some difficulties in the second half of last year.

Cosworth is now beginning to see the benefits of the capital expenditure which has been ploughed in over recent months. The main contracts with Mercedes Benz and Ford will ensure profits growth and these could be enhanced by other new orders. The order book stretches at least three years ahead and the company's return to the Formula One racing scene will inevitably bring greater rewards in the longer term.

The outlook at Yewlands has also seen some improvement as a result of an upturn in the fortunes of the aerospace industry. The order book there is now looking much healthier and the creation should break even this year.

Much of the capital expenditure which UEI has been obliged to make in order to maintain a quality portfolio of products will be completed this year. However, it has bitten into cash flow, and the working capital needed for higher levels of trading in the electronics division will mean a small increase in borrowings.

The benefits of the additional investment will not be fully felt until 1985-86, although UEI should still make in excess of £10m this year. At 178p, unchanged yesterday, the shares look quite cheap given the large high-technology element in the company's operations.

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY PRICES		LONDON METAL EXCHANGE		LONDON INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL	
Rubber, coffee, cocoa, etc. per tonne		Official turnover figures		Reuters World Financial Services Ltd	
Sugar and oil in 5 per tonne		Prices in pounds per metric ton		Commodity	
		Prices in pence per tray ounce		Unit	
		Leaf weight 5 lb, report			
		Leaf weight 1 lb, report			
		Leaf weight 1/2 lb, report			
		Leaf weight 1/4 lb, report			
		Leaf weight 1/8 lb, report			
		Leaf weight 1/16 lb, report			
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		Leaf weight 1/64 lb, report			
		Leaf weight 1/128 lb, report			
		Leaf weight 1/256 lb, report			
		Leaf weight 1/512 lb, report			
		Leaf weight 1/1024 lb, report			
		Leaf weight 1/2048 lb, report			
		Leaf weight 1/4096 lb, report			
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FINANCIAL SERVICES

Unproven case for portable pensions

By Philip Nash

Freedom to choose how you provide for your retirement is not as simple as it may seem

Most company pension schemes are designed to give a decent pension, based on final pay, to employees who stay with one company all their working lives, but not to those who change jobs. As 85 in every 100 employees are likely to change jobs, the inequity is serious.

The root cause is inflation. If the value of money were stable the Social Security Pensions Act of 1973 would ensure that most employees leaving a company scheme would get a fair deal. The pension they would eventually receive based on pay at the leaving date and the number of years of completed service, would not have suffered the devaluations even a modest rate of inflation will cause.

At first sight the proposals by Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, for freedom of individual choice look sensible enough. If each employee had a personally owned pension to carry around from job to job, he would not be penalized for changing his employer. At present a big part of company contributions made on his behalf has to be left behind; in theory at least, with a personal pension scheme, some of the employers' contributions could travel with him from job to job.

The disadvantage of individual personal pensions is that it is practically impossible to assess what the final retirement pension would be.

Most company pension schemes are clear on this point. They provide an income based on pay at retirement, so that each employee can see how his retirement pension relates to his final salary. Thus he can judge whether he can maintain a standard of living in retirement, related to the income he enjoyed during his working life. Some progress has already been made to make normal company pension schemes more equitable for both leavers and stayers. From 1986 pension

schemes must provide leavers with pensions which will increase between the date of leaving and retirement at the rate of 5 per cent per annum - but only on that part of the pension earned after 1986. This is, arguably a big step forward, but it falls short of a complete answer to the problem.

Employees not in company schemes can already buy personal pensions. They can obtain similar tax advantages to those in company schemes, including personal tax relief, an accumulating investment that is tax free, and a tax-free cash sum at retirement. However, such schemes cannot be used for contracting-out of the state earnings-related pensions. In the pensions industry, the real cause of excitement is this critical issue of contracting out.

The idea is that an employee will pay into his personal pension an amount at least equal to the National Insurance contribution rebate he now receives if in a contracted-out plan. His employer must pay in a similar amount to the present rebate. These rebates are currently 2.15 per cent and a uniform 4.1 per cent. However, the employers' rebate, destined for a personal pension is to be much less than 4.1 per cent for the young employees who are likely to opt out of the company pension scheme and choose a personal pension plan of their own.

This is because the uniform 4.1 per cent employers' rebate will be recalculated at all ages, giving a much lower figure for younger members and a higher figure for older members to be financially neutral.

Even the full rebates will be reduced over the next 20 years or so until they stabilize at something like 4 per cent in total.

In effect therefore, a tranche of National Insurance taxation will be diverted into the private sector.

If the state earnings-related scheme is abandoned (and it is becoming very expensive to run, quite apart from the personal pension issue), then we have problems. Pension rights will be reduced to the extent that young employees choose not to buy personal pensions or be in a company scheme. In time the financial burden will

fall on the state supplementary benefits scheme at the taxpayers' expense.

If the contracting-out provisions were not in these proposals, then the personal arrangements envisaged in Mr Fowler's consultative document could be created by a few minor changes in existing legislation. The consultative document would either have been unnecessary or would have amounted to two pages instead of 20.

Most pensions experts do not like the Government's proposals; they do not look good for the consumer. In favour of them are those who see a new market for their products, namely the financial organizations who hope to get themselves approved for marketing personal pensions. Mr Fowler has clearly succumbed to pressure from these vested interests. Even the advisory committee which he established was designed to consider how it should all be done and not whether it should be done.

Employees not in company

schemes will be a target for investment salesmen, qualified and otherwise. The consultative document says that employees must be given sufficient valid information to weigh up the options. But most employees cannot be expected to understand the details they would need. Pension advisers find it difficult enough explaining contracting-out and the investment implications to the average financial director.

Another target for salesmen will be those already in company schemes. Membership of company schemes will no longer be compulsory and existing members will be able to opt out and set up their own personal pensions, or to do nothing.

They will have no definite knowledge of their eventual retirement income. Furthermore, they will no longer have the safety net which ensures their final income in retirement is not less than the state earnings-related scheme had they been in it.

It is true that the consultative

document seeks opinions from the pensions industry, asking such questions as "what should be the minimum contributions for contracting-out?" and "on what terms should a pension scheme member who has withdrawn be allowed to re-join?" Nowhere does it ask the basic question "should individuals with personal pensions be permitted to contract-out?"

The pension industry would like to see simplification of the legal approval system it is subject to, rather than have further complications.

Most in the industry wish to see the existing final pay type company scheme continue to evolve in such a way that all members will see that they are being given a fair deal. They believe that Mr Fowler must be saved from his own ineptitude. The personal portable pension is a red herring which will turn out to be another Government banana skin, but at everybody else's cost.

The author is chief executive of Wigham Poland, pensions advisers and Lloyd's brokers.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1984	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yield	P/E
188	118	118	Abn Bank	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
189	118	118	Adam & Co	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
190	118	118	Admiral	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
191	118	118	Alfred Jones	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
192	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
193	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
194	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
195	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
196	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
197	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
198	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
199	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
200	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8

1984	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yield	P/E
201	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
202	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
203	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
204	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
205	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
206	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
207	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
208	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
209	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
210	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
211	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8

1984	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yield	P/E
212	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
213	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
214	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
215	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
216	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
217	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
218	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
219	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
220	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
221	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
222	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8

1984	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yield	P/E
223	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
224	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
225	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
226	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
227	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
228	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
229	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
230	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
231	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
232	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
233	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8

1984	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yield	P/E
234	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
235	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
236	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
237	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
238	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
239	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
240	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
241	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
242	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
243	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
244	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8

1984	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yield	P/E
245	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
246	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
247	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
248	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
249	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
250	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
251	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
252	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
253	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
254	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
255	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
256	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8

RECENT ISSUES

1984	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yield	P/E
257	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
258	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
259	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
260	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
261	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
262	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
263	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
264	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
265	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
266	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
267	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
268	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
269	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
270	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8

Closing Price

1984	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yield	P/E
271	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
272	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
273	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
274	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
275	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
276	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
277	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
278	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
279	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
280	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
281	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
282	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
283	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
284	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
285	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
286	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
287	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
288	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
289	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
290	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
291	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
292	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
293	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
294	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
295	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
296	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
297	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
298	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
299	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8
300	118	118	Anglo	118	..	4.8	4.1	11.8

* 7 day deposits on terms of under £10,000, 7.5%, £10,000 up to £25,000, 8%, £25,000 and over, 8.5%.

Benjamin Priest Group plc

(Registered in England No. 125882)

Issue of 3,650,000 8 per cent. Cumulative Convertible Redeemable Preference Shares of £1 each.

Permission has been granted by the Council of The Stock Exchange for all of the above shares to be admitted to the Official List.

The shares have been issued as part of the refinancing proposals which were set out in the circular to shareholders dated 20th September, 1984 and approved by the Company on 15th October, 1984.

Particulars of the shares have been circulated in the Extel Statistical Services and copies of the particulars may be obtained during usual business hours on any weekday, except Saturday, up to and including 31st October, 1984 from:

Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited
New Issue Department
21 Austin Friars
London EC2N 2HB

Rowe & Pitman
City Gate House
38-45 Finsbury Square
London EC2A 1JA

LEE COOPER GROUP PLC

	Half year to 30 June 1984 £000's	Half year to 30 June 1983 £000's
Turnover	48,156	48,016
Pre-tax profit	5,267	5,111
Profit after taxation	2,452	2,111
Profit attributable to Lee Cooper Group PLC	2,297	2,011
Profit attributable to ordinary shareholders	2,290	2,001
Earnings per ordinary share	14.80p	13.30p

THE TIMES Portfolio

From your Portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

No.	Company	Your price at start
1	INDUSTRIALS A-D	
2	Cook (Wm)	
3	Bepak	
4	Cape Ind	
5	AGB Research	
6	Dalrymple	
7	Bridon	
8	DPCE	
9	Boon	
10	Adi & Lacey	
11	BOC	
12	PROPERTY	
13	Country & New	
14	Halford Gp	
15	Bilton (P)	
16	Scott Met	
17	Estates & Agency	
18	Or Portland	
19	East of Leeds	
20	Fairview	
21	By Land	
22	FOODS	
23	Banks (Sidney C)	
24	Cashbury-Schwapp	
25	Dee	
26	Bailey Foods	
27	Fisher (Albert)	
28	Avon	
29	AB Food	
30	Bryan	
31	Cars Milling	
32	Kwik Save	
33	BREWERIES	
34	Greenall Whitley	
35	Irish Dist	
36	Belhaven	
37	Vaux	
38	Greene King	
39	Hughland Dist	
40	Clark (Matthew)	
41	SA Breweries	
42	Bass	
43	Whitbread 'A'	

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £20,000 in today's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	Weekly Total

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

BRITISH FUNDS

1984	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Open	Div	Yld	P/E
1			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
2			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
3			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
4			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
5			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
6			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
7			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
8			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
9			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
10			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
11			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
12			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
13			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
14			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
15			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
16			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
17			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
18			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
19			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
20			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
21			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
22			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
23			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
24			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
25			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
26			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
27			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
28			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
29			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
30			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
31			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
32			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
33			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
34			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
35			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
36			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
37			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
38			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
39			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
40			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
41			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
42			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
43			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
44			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
45			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
46			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
47			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
48			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
49			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
50			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
51			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
52			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
53			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
54			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
55			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
56			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
57			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
58			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
59			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
60			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
61			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
62			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
63			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
64			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
65			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
66			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
67			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
68			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
69			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
70			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
71			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
72			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
73			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
74			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
75			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
76			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
77			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
78			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
79			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
80			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
81			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
82			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
83			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
84			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
85			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
86			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
87			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
88			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
89			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
90			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
91			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
92			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
93			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
94			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
95			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
96			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
97			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
98			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
99			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
100			ABF	1.10	0.01	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00

BREWERIES									
1984	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Open	Div	Yld	P/E
1	120 1/2	120 1/2	ABF-Lynn	120 1/2		120 1/2	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	120 1/2	120 1/2	ABF	120 1/2		120 1/2	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	120 1/2	120 1/2	ABF (Arthur)	120 1/2		120 1/2	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	120 1/2	120 1/2	ABF	120 1/2		120 1/2	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	120 1/2	120 1/2	ABF	120 1/2		120 1/2	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	120 1/2	120 1/2	ABF	120 1/2		120 1/2	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	120 1/2	120 1/2	ABF	120 1/2		120 1/2	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	120 1/2	120 1/2	ABF	120 1/2		120 1/2	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	120 1/2	120 1/2	ABF	120 1/2		120 1/2	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	120 1/2	120 1/2	ABF	120 1/2		120 1/2	0.00	0.00	0.00
11	120 1/2	120 1/2	ABF	120 1/2		120 1/2	0.00	0.00	0.00
12	120 1/2	120 1/2	ABF	120 1/2		120 1/2	0.00	0.00	0.00
13	120 1/2	120 1/2	ABF	120 1/2		120 1/2	0.00	0.00	0.00
14	120 1/2	120 1/2	ABF	120 1/2		120 1/2	0.00	0.00	0.00
15	120 1/2	120 1/2	ABF	120 1/2		120 1/2	0.00	0.00	0.00
16	120 1/2	120 1/2	ABF	120 1/2		120 1/2	0.00	0.00	0.00
17	120 1/2	120 1/2	ABF	120 1/2		120 1/2	0.00	0.00	0.00
18	120 1/2	120 1/2	ABF	120 1/2		120 1/2	0.00	0.00	0.00
19	120 1/2	120 1/2	ABF	120 1/2		120 1/2	0.00	0.00	0.00
20	120 1/2	120 1/2	ABF	120 1/2		120 1/2	0.00	0.00	0.00
21	120 1/2	120 1/2	ABF	120 1/2		120 1/2	0.00	0.00	0.00
22	120 1/2	120 1/2	ABF	120 1/2		120 1/2	0.00	0.00	0.00
23	120 1/2	120 1/2	ABF	120 1/2		120 1/2	0.00	0.00	0.00
24	120 1/2	120 1/2	ABF	120 1/2		120 1/2	0.00	0.00	0.00
25	120 1/2	120 1/2	ABF	120 1/2		120 1/2	0.00	0.00	0.00
26	120 1/2	120 1/2	ABF	120 1/2		120 1/2	0.00	0.00	0.00
27	120 1/2	120 1/2	ABF	120 1/2		120 1/2	0.00	0.00	0.00
28	120 1/2	120 1/2	ABF	120 1/2		120 1/2	0.00	0.00	0.00
29	120 1/2	120 1/2	ABF	120 1/2		120 1/2	0.00	0.00	0.00
30	120 1/2	120 1/2	ABF	120 1/2		120 1/2	0.00	0.00	0.00
31	120 1/2	120 1/2	ABF	120 1/2		120 1/2	0.00	0.00	0.00

APPOINTMENTS

BCA names deputy chairman

The British Car Auction Group, Mr William Beaton takes early retirement from the Ford Motor Company on November 1 to join the British Car Auction Group as deputy chairman and to take over the role as chairman of its wholly-owned US subsidiary, Anglo American Auto Auctions Inc.

ICL: Twelve new directors have joined the board. ICL plc will become a management company responsible for the ICL activities within the STC Group. The new directors are: Mr D F Beattie, personnel director; ICL: Mr D J Dices, director and general manager, mainframe systems; ICL: Mr J T Dickson, director and general manager, manufacturing operations; ICL: Mr N P D Eadie, director and general manager, office systems; ICL: Mr J B Eyles, director, international business; STC: Dr N W Home, director, corporate development; STC: Mr J J Jerram, finance director, ICL and company controller, STC; Mr A W Laxum, director and general manager, applied systems; ICL: Mr D J D Lewis, director, business intelligence and planning; STC: Mr A R Russell, managing director, ICL (UK); Mr D J Small, business planning director, ICL; Mr J M Watson, technical director, ICL.

CBI: Dr John Ault, managing director of the Somerset-based Westland Engineers, has been appointed chairman of the CBI's South West region. He succeeds Mr John Gough, deputy chairman of Kleeneze Holdings. The new vice-chairman is Mr Pat Darley, deputy chairman and chief executive of Bridport-Gundry, Dorset.

Merrill Lynch: Mr Jeffrey Lawrence has been made executive director of the newly formed Corporation Financial Services Division (UK).

Charterhouse J. Rothschild: Mr Christopher C. Brown has become director of planning

and Mr David J. Wood group treasurer.

Asda: Mr G. H. Stow is to become personnel director.

British Gas: Mr John Dilks has been appointed assistant director of finance. He succeeds Mr J. R. Neville, who has retired.

TR International (Chemicals): Mr Michael Gaine has been promoted from manager to director of the international division.

Devenish Redruth Brewery: Mr A. M. Wharmby, head brewer at the Redruth Brewery, has become a director.

Henry Ansbacher Holdings: The following have been appointed as directors: Mr Robert H. Clayton, Jr., chairman of Laidlaw Ansbacher Inc. and Mr Peter E. Phillips, now a director of Henry Ansbacher & Co. Mr John H. Gregory, Mr David J. Sebire and Mr John M. Cummings have joined the board of Henry Ansbacher & Co.

COMPANY NEWS
IN BRIEF

● **MARKHEATH SECURITIES:** Half-year to June 30. Turnover £1.3m (£800,000). Pretax loss on ordinary activities £458,000 (loss £247,000). Interim payment 4.55p (same).

● **DARES ESTATES** is to sell its Californian offshoots, Dares Realty, to the Laurel Co for \$5m (£4m).

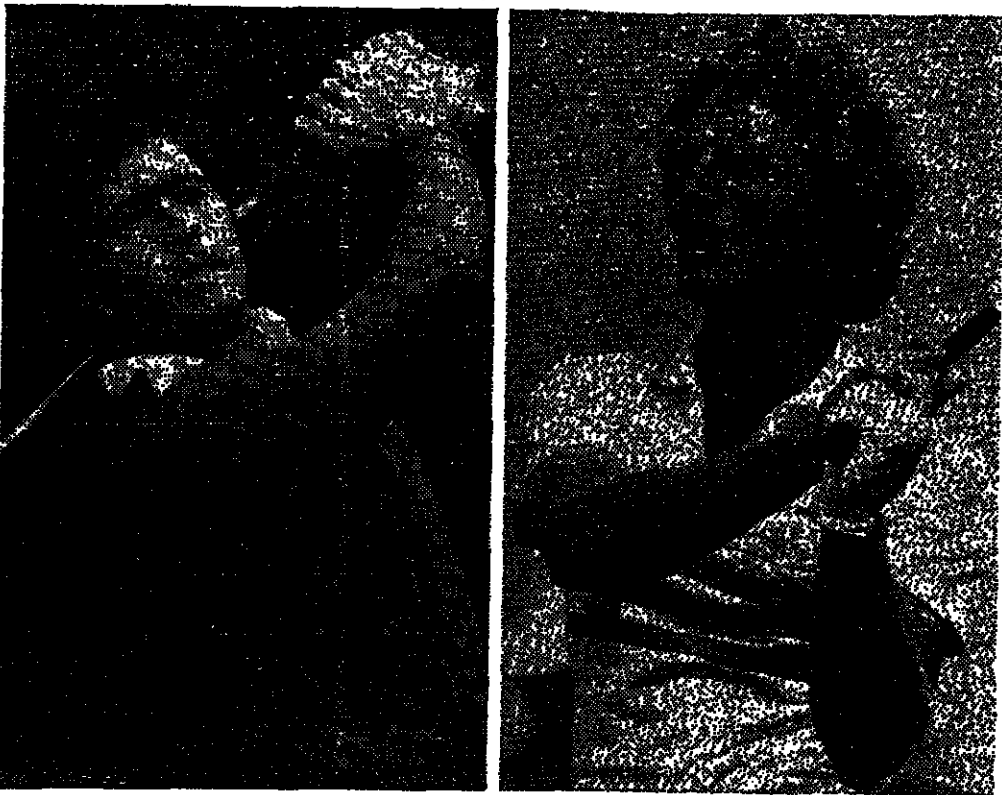
● **OFFICE & ELECTRONIC MACHINES:** Half-year to June 30. Turnover £13.2m (£13.24m). Pretax profit £1.17m (£1.2m). Interim payment 2.5p (same).

● **ALIBONE & SONS:** Half-year to July 31. Turnover £7.24m (£6.28m). Pretax profit £258,000 (loss £97,000). Interim payment 0.25p (nil last time).

● **FOTHERGILL & HARVEY:** Half-year to June 30. Turnover £14.5m (£11.8m). Pretax profit £1.25m (£806,000). Interim payment 2.75p (same).

● **F. W. THORPE:** Year to June 30. Turnover £6.21m (£6.06m). Pretax profit £1.03m (£922,000). Dividend 3.45p (3p).

GOLF



Collectors' club of two: Seve Ballesteros and Bernhard Langer

Langer pursues full collection of Opens

From Michell Platts, Valencia

A paradoxical aspect of Bernhard Langer's life is that the more capable he becomes, the more he appears of winning. Halfway through the Spanish Open, sponsored by Benson and Hedges, he confessed: "I'm tired, my back aches and all I want to do is rest."

Yet 48 hours later, on the El Sater course in Valencia, he won the title with a closing 62 which must rank as one of the most remarkable rounds in the history of the PGA European tour. His rivalry with Severiano Ballesteros expands into a new area since Langer could deprive the Spaniard of the honour of becoming the first golfer to collect a full set of Open titles on the European circuit.

On the way to being top of the Order of Merit, sponsored by Sperry, for the second time in four years, Langer has won the French, Dutch, Irish and Spanish Opens in addition to the German and Italian titles he won in previous years. On the Continent he has still to win in Switzerland, Scandinavia and Portugal. Ballesteros needs the Italian and Portuguese Opens to complete his set.

The West German, with a twinkle in his eyes, said: "You never know, I just might beat Seve to the full collection."

Even so, Langer accepts that while he has accumulated almost £250,000 in official earnings around the world this year, the major championships have remained elusive. He must still win the British

Open if he is to beat Ballesteros to that collection.

Ballesteros has won the British Open twice, as well as two United States Masters, and he pushed Langer into second place at St Andrews this summer in the World Matchplay Championship at Wentworth last month. Langer was runner-up at Royal St George's in 1981, so he will not be inconvinced by the British Open returning to the Kent course next summer. Moreover, by campaigning on a regular basis in America next season, he will have a better opportunity of winning his first title on that circuit.

"It is difficult to assess how many times I will play in Europe in 1984 but it is unlikely to be less than six or more than 10," Langer said. "I want to play in America and I know how important it is for me to win there."

Ballesteros's game revolves around being emotionally inspired; Langer is a golfing machine unaffected by either environment or events. They are as wide apart in personality, as Ian McGregor and Arthur Scargill. But on and off the course both can drive hard bargain and overcome any pitfall.

Ballesteros has more than an edge in terms of his four major championships - a reflection of his prodigious talent - but there is no doubt that Langer, who was fifth in the Order of Merit when the Spaniard won his first British Open, is now a threat to his rival's domination.

Cream rise to first world title challenge

Tokyo (AP) - A field of 26 golfers picked from among the world's top money men, including Tom Watson, Severiano Ballesteros, Sandy Lyle, Nick Faldo and Sam Torrance, will compete in the first world championship of golf between October 25-28.

Invitations are based on the golfers' 1983 total earnings from four major professional golf association tours in the United States, Japan, Europe, and Australia and New Zealand.

Hal Sutton, the top earner last year, declined his invitation, saying his play in the United States this year "has not been up to par", and Fuzzy Zoeller, who was second last year, is unable to take part because of injury. Hale Irwin and Rex Caldwell are the replacements in the United States contingent, which also includes Calvin Peete, Larry Wadkins and Tom Watson.

Jim Nelford of Canada also plays, as do Jose-Maria Canizares of Spain, Bernhard Langer of West Germany and Nick Price.

Green back

Columbus, Georgia (Reuter) - Hubert Green ended a three-year spell without a victory by winning the Southern Open PGA tournament on Sunday with a final round of 67.

LEADING FINAL SCORES (US unless stated): 255: Green, 65.66.57.67. 271: G. Hoch, 68.66.66.70. N. Caldwell, 68.66.66.66. C. Peete, 68.66.66.66. 272: G. Halverson, 68.67.72.68. A. Boren, 71.68.68.68. 273: P. Bonser, 68.68.68.68. G. Olsson, 68.68.72.68. W. Ballesteros, 66.67.72.68. W. Wood, 64.70.66.70. 274: J. Norman, 70.66.70.66. G. Sauer, 68.71.68.68. M. Mulvey, 68.68.71.67. T. Simpson, 68.73.66.66.

BASKETBALL

Pirates look down from top of the mast

By Nicholas Harting

Hardly has the season started than it is all happening in the National League. A new name is on top of the first division, the individual scoring record has come within one point of being bettered and transfer activity is as busy as ever.

Bracknell Pirates are the club looking down on the rest for the first time, largely because they have played at least one game more than everyone else. Two more victories at the weekend made it four league wins out of four for the Berkshire club, who can scarcely do anything more to attract potential sponsors.

The current success story is a triumph for Andy Brown, the coach who seems to have improved harmony which was never strong even when Jack Lechane took the club to the national championship finals at Wembley last season, during which he received the coach of the year award. Now, with Lechane back in America and two of last season's outstanding players, Callender and Balogun gone, Brown has capitalized on the support of Bracknell's two new Americans, Lawrence and Payton.

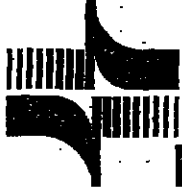
"We may fall flat on our faces after Christmas, but we will have enjoyed it", Brown said. He and Bracknell were helped in both weekend games by the apparent willingness of the opposition to get into trouble. Four Hemel/Watford Royals, Spald, Lloyd, McCray and Balogun, had fouled out before the end of Bracknell's thunderous 102-92 victory.

Within eight minutes at John Carr Doncaster on Sunday the home side were in danger of losing Branley, who had recorded three fouls and there was uproar in the last minute when Davis, instead of Branley was told to take a free shot. He missed and Doncaster, who had made up a 45-29 interval deficit, lost 71-70. Bracknell, however, had played all but one minute without Lawrence, who aggravated an injury he received on Saturday.

Another game to go into overtime was the stupendous one at Manchester, where Bona had put FCO Carr Warrington two points ahead with 15 seconds to go only for Gardner to equalize on the buzzer. After that, Robinson sank three out of four free throws - the extra one being allowed following a technical foul by Penny - and Warrington, England's last survivors in Europe, never recovered.

There was also plenty of excitement at Birmingham, where Home Spare Bolton were within sight of a rare victory when they led 69-56 with eight minutes left, only to have Crosby and McNish fouled out. Saunders, the outstanding American guard who won the game for Birmingham with two free shots, and Donaldson are reluctantly on the move to Team Glasgow for £5,000 because Birmingham can no longer afford to pay them.

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MIDCON CORP.

(Incorporated with limited liability in the State of Delaware in the United States of America)

Authorized
60,000,000

Shares of Common Stock without par value

*Including 4,338,668 shares reserved for issue

Issued and reserved
for issue at
14th September, 1984
34,488,398

MidCon Corp. (the "Company") is a diversified pipeline and energy holding company which through its subsidiaries is engaged in the transmission and sale of natural gas, oil and gas exploration and production, contract drilling and coal mining and marketing. Its principal subsidiary, Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America, owns and operates one of the largest interstate gas pipeline systems in the United States. For the year ended 30th September, 1983 consolidated total revenues were U.S. \$3.3 billion and consolidated net income was U.S. \$121.6 million. Results for the nine months ended 30th June, 1984 were consolidated total revenues of U.S. \$3.4 billion and consolidated net income of U.S. \$129.1 million against nine months ended 30th June, 1983 results of consolidated total revenues of U.S. \$2.7 billion and consolidated net income of U.S. \$110.8 million.

The Council of The Stock Exchange has admitted to the Official List all the 34,488,398 Shares of Common Stock of the Company issued and reserved for issue.

Particulars relating to the Company are available in the Extel Statistical Service and copies of such particulars may be obtained during usual business hours on any weekday (Saturdays and public holidays excepted) up to and including 6th November, 1984 from:

Credit Suisse First Boston Limited
22 Bishopsgate, London EC2N 4BQ

de Zoete & Bevan
25 Finsbury Circus,
London EC2M 7EE

16th October, 1984

1983-84		1984-85		1985-86		1986-87		1987-88		1988-89		1989-90		1990-91		1991-92		1992-93		1993-94		1994-95		1995-96		1996-97		1997-98		1998-99		1999-00		2000-01		2001-02		2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		2009-10		2010-11		2011-12		2012-13		2013-14		2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20		2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24		2024-25		2025-26		2026-27		2027-28		2028-29		2029-30		2030-31		2031-32		2032-33		2033-34		2034-35		2035-36		2036-37		2037-38		2038-39		2039-40		2040-41		2041-42		2042-43		2043-44		2044-45		2045-46		2046-47		2047-48		2048-49		2049-50		2050-51		2051-52		2052-53		2053-54		2054-55		2055-56		2056-57		2057-58		2058-59		2059-60		2060-61		2061-62		2062-63		2063-64		2064-65		2065-66		2066-67		2067-68		2068-69		2069-70		2070-71		2071-72		2072-73		2073-74		2074-75		2075-76		2076-77		2077-78		2078-79		2079-80		2080-81		2081-82		2082-83		2083-84		2084-85		2085-86		2086-87		2087-88		2088-89		2089-90		2090-91		2091-92		2092-93		2093-94		2094-95		2095-96		2096-97		2097-98		2098-99		2099-00		2100-01		2101-02		2102-03		2103-04		2104-05		2105-06		2106-07		2107-08		2108-09		2109-10		2110-11		2111-12		2112-13		2113-14		2114-15		2115-16		2116-17		2117-18		2118-19		2119-20		2120-21		2121-22		2122-23		2123-24		2124-25		2125-26		2126-27		2127-28		2128-29		2129-30		2130-31		2131-32		2132-33		2133-34		2134-35		2135-36		2136-37		2137-38		2138-39		2139-40		2140-41		2141-42		2142-43		2143-44		2144-45		2145-46		2146-47		2147-48		2148-49		2149-50		2150-51		2151-52		2152-53		2153-54		2154-55		2155-56		2156-57		2157-58		2158-59		2159-60		2160-61		2161-62		2162-63		2163-64		2164-65		2165-66		2166-67		2167-68		2168-69		2169-70		2170-71		2171-72		2172-73		2173-74		2174-75		2175-76		2176-77		2177-78		2178-79		2179-80		2180-81		2181-82		2182-83		2183-84		2184-85		2185-86		2186-87		2187-88		2188-89		2189-90		2190-91		2191-92		2192-93		2193-94		2194-95		2195-96		2196-97		2197-98		2198-99		2199-00		2200-01		2201-02		2202-03		2203-04		2204-05		2205-06		2206-07		2207-08		2208-09		2209-10		2210-11		2211-12		2212-13		2213-14		2214-15		2215-16		2216-17		2217-18		2218-19		2219-20		2220-21		2221-22		2222-23		2223-24		2224-25		2225-26		2226-27		2227-28		2228-29		2229-30		2230-31		2231-32		2232-33		2233-34		2234-35		2235-36		2236-37		2237-38		2238-39		2239-40		2240-41		2241-42		2242-43		2243-44		2244-45		2245-46		2246-47		2247-48		2248-49		2249-50		2250-51		2251-52		2252-53		2253-54		2254-55		2255-56		2256-57		2257-58		2258-59		2259-60		2260-61		2261-62		2262-63		2263-64		2264-65		2265-66		2266-67		2267-68		2268-69		2269-70		2270-71		2271-72		2272-73		2273-74		2274-75		2275-76		2276-77		2277-78		2278-79		2279-80		2280-81		2281-82		2282-83		2283-84		2284-85		2285-86		2286-87		2287-88		2288-89		2289-90		2290-91		2291-92		2292-93		2293-94		2294-95		2295-96		2296-97		2297-98		2298-99		2299-00		2300-01		2301-02		2302-03		2303-04		2304-05		2305-06		2306-07		2307-08		2308-09		2309-10		2310-11		2311-12		2312-13		2313-14		2314-15		2315-16		2316-17		2317-18		2318-19		2319-20		2320-21		2321-22		2322-23		2323-24		2324-25		2325-26		2326-27		2327-28		2328-29		2329-30		2330-31		2331-32		2332-33		2333-34		2334-35		2335-36		2336-37		2337-38		2338-39		2339-40		2340-41		2341-42		2342-43		2343-44		2344-45		2345-46		2346-47		2347-48		2348-49		2349-50		2350-51		2351-52		2352-53		2353-54		2354-55		2355-56		2356-57		2357-58		2358-59		2359-60		2360-61		2361-62		2362-63		2363-64		2364-65		2365-66		2366-67		2367-68		2368-69		2369-70		2370-71		2371-72		2372-73		2373-74		2374-75		2375-76		2376-77		2377-78		2378-79		2379-80		2380-81		2381-82		2382-83		2383-84		2384-85		2385-86		2386-87		2387-88		2388-89		2389-90		2390-91		2391-92		2392-93		2393-94		2394-95		2395-96		2396-97		2397-98		2398-99		2399-00		2400-01		2401-02		2402-03		2403-04		2404-05		2405-06		2406-07		2407-08		2408-09		2409-10		2410-11		2411-12		2412-13		2413-14		2414-15		2415-16		2416-17		2417-18		2418-19		2419-20		2420-21		2421-22		2422-23		2423-24		2424-25		2425-26		2426-27		2427-28		2428-29		2429-30		2430-31		2431-32		2432-33		2433-34		2434-35		2435-36		2436-37		2437-38		2438-39		2439-40		2440-41		2441-42		2442-43		2443-44		2444-45		2445-46		2446-47		2447-48		2448-49		2449-50		2450-51		2451-52		2452-53		2453-54		2454-55		2455-56		2456-57		2457-58		2458-59		2459-60		2460-61		2461-62		2462-63		2463-64		2464-65		2465-66		2466-67		2467-68		2468-69		2469-70		2470-71		2471-72		2472-73		2473-74		2474-75		2475-76		2476-77		2477-78		2478-79		2479-80		2480-81		2481-82		2482-83		2483-84		2484-85		2485-86		2486-87		2487-88		2488-89		2489-90		2490-91		2491-92		2492-93		2493-94		2494-95		2495-96		2496-97		2497-98		2498-99		2499-00		2500-01		2501-02		2502-03		2503-04		2504-05		2505-06		2506-07		2507-08		2508-09		2509-10		2510-11		2511-12		2512-13		2513-14		2514-15		2515-16		2516-17		2517-18		2518-19		2519-20		2520-21		2521-22		2522-23		2523-24		2524-25		2525-26		2526-27		2527-28		2528-29		2529-30		2530-31		2531-32		2532-33		2533-34		2534-35		2535-36		2536-37		2537-38		2538-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Legal Appointments

Solicitors

Company/Commercial and Tax

Career prospects for Solicitors specialising in the above areas presently look excellent.

We have numerous clients who are looking for Solicitors with up to five years post qualification experience in Company/Commercial and/or Tax and recently qualified Solicitors with good academic qualifications who are interested in specialising in those fields.

If you are considering a career move or purely wish to discuss your career in confidence then please telephone Laurence Simons on 01-405 0442 or 387 4752 (evenings/weekends) or write to him at Michael Page Partnership, 31 Southampton Row, London WC1B 5HY.



Michael Page Partnership
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London New York Bristol
Birmingham Manchester Leeds Glasgow

Lawyer - Joint Ventures

In a little more than four years, LASMO has developed from an investment company with interests in eight UK blocks into an international oil company with exploration and production activities in 11 countries and operations in eight. The early part of 1984 has seen significant oil and gas discoveries on LASMO operated acreage in Australia and Indonesia together with encouraging exploration and appraisal wells in other areas in which the Company has interests. If the Company's future development plans are to be realised it must continue to attract top quality professionals onto its staff therefore salary and benefits packages worldwide are tailored accordingly.

A commercially minded lawyer is required to assist in the provision of a complete legal service, from pre-acquisition through production, for LASMO's worldwide ventures. The work will involve drafting and negotiating bidding, farm-in and joint operating agreements and preparing licence applications. This is an attractive career opportunity for a barrister or solicitor, in mid to late twenties, with a minimum of three years' experience in a commercial, preferably oil industry environment who has the ability to act on personal initiative and communicate with all levels of management. The position offers a wide variety of experience and the opportunity to travel. In addition to an attractive salary, the Company offers a very generous benefits package including a car loan. Applicants should apply, enclosing a CV to: Barbara Shaw, Personnel Adviser, LASMO, Bastion House, 140 London Wall, London EC2Y 5DN. Tel: 01-600 8021.



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Our client is a small but rapidly expanding firm of City Solicitors with a huge workload and quality client base (a major proportion being in high technology and banking, both in the UK and overseas). The prospects are exceptional and will appeal to top-flight lawyers whose aspirations extend beyond membership of colossal partnerships, but who nevertheless are already or are capable of becoming partners in the major City firms.

Solicitors with first-class ability and credentials are sought:-

For commercial litigation

- At partner level;
- At recently qualified level. (Barristers who are prepared to change professions will be considered in this category).

For company/commercial work

- With minimum 3 years' post-qualification experience.

Remuneration will depend upon experience, but will not be a limiting factor.

Replies, with full CVs, will be treated in complete confidence by ourselves and our client to whom all applications will be forwarded unless a covering letter instructs otherwise, to E.J. Robins, Executive Selection Division, Ref. R230.

Coopers & Lybrand associates

Coopers & Lybrand Associates Limited management consultants

Fleetway House 25 Farringdon Street London EC4A 4AQ

SOLICITOR

up to £17,500

International Banking

Standard Chartered Bank is Britain's largest independent international bank, with gross assets of approximately £29 billion and more than 2000 offices in over 60 countries.

We wish, as part of a continued expansion of an in-house legal facility, to appoint a solicitor to assist the Senior Legal Manager in advising the Bank on all aspects of international and secured domestic lending.

The ideal candidate, who should be a graduate, will have obtained the relevant experience in a large commercial practice or financial institution for a period of

about two years since qualification. He or she will have an ability to communicate with officers of the Bank at all levels and be able to assess the legal implications of transactions with which the Bank is involved.

Salary will be up to £17,500, according to experience, plus the usual banking benefits.

Please apply, with a comprehensive c.v. stating present emoluments to:- Jean Collins, Assistant Manager, UK Personnel Services, Standard Chartered Bank PLC, 10 Clements Lane, London EC4N 7AB.

Standard Chartered

Legal Assistant

At THORN EMI Screen Entertainment, our wide ranging interests in film, cinema, video and cable TV create numerous legal and contractual considerations. Now our Legal and Business Affairs Department, which deals with this absorbing aspect of the entertainment industry, has an opening for a highly professional young person to help provide a business/legal affairs service.

Liaising extensively with both internal and external contacts, you will advise on all legal and contractual matters and draft and negotiate a variety of legally binding contracts. You will also be responsible for specifying financial arrangements involving large sums.

Probably aged 25-30, and ideally qualified as a Solicitor or a Barrister, you should have at least one year of post qualifying experience, preferably in the entertainment industry.

We are offering a salary of c£10,000 plus an attractive range of large company benefits.

If you have the expertise, precision and personality to make an effective contribution in this exciting but rewarding environment, please write with full cv, by 25 October 1984, to: Miss M. Desai, Personnel and Training Officer, Personnel Department.



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to formulate and co-ordinate contracts with writers, producers, broadcasters and artists for the Company's multi-party international co-productions, monitor contractual rights and obligations, and assemble financing packages. Age 23-30, legal background preferable. Apply to: PRIMETIME TELEVISION LTD Seymour House, London W1H 9PE

LEGAL OPPORTUNITIES

FALKLAND ISLANDS

The Falkland Islands Government require the services of a CROWN SOLICITOR and a SENIOR MAGISTRATE

CROWN SOLICITOR

Duties: To assist the Attorney General and advise and represent members of the public. There are no resident private lawyers in the Falkland Islands.

Qualifications: Candidates should be qualified Barristers or Solicitors with a minimum of 5 years experience.

Appointment: Salary in the range of £12,170 to £15,384 p.a. This includes a tax-free supplementary allowance in the range £4,982 to £6,996 p.a.

Please quote Reference No. AH 310/GG/E/1.

SENIOR MAGISTRATE

Duties: To advise and assist the Attorney General. He/she will be the senior resident judicial officer and will take responsibility for legal aspects of registration matters.

Qualifications: Candidates should be qualified Barristers or Solicitors with a minimum of 5 years experience.

Appointment: Salary payable is £18,768 for married officers and £16,754 for single officers. This includes a tax-free supplementary allowance of £10,380 and £8,366 respectively.

Please quote Reference No. AG 310/GG/E/2.

BOTH POSTS: Candidates should be British citizens. One hour of 21 or 23 years resident service. Other benefits include free passages, paid leave, children's holiday visits and education allowance. Terminal gratuity of 15% of local salary.

For full details and application form please apply stating post concerned quoting appropriate reference number and giving details of age, qualifications and availability to:

Appointments Officer, Overseas Development Administration, Room AH 351, Abercrombie House, Eagleham Road, East Kilbride, Glasgow G75 8EA.

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PO (c)-(d): £10,761-£12,087

Applications are invited from Solicitors for the above post in the Department of the Prosecuting Solicitor for Gwent, to be based at Police Headquarters, Caerphilly, or the Divisional Office at Newport. Experience of criminal advocacy in the Magistrates' Courts will be of advantage.

Application forms obtainable from Chief Executive Officer, Personnel Section, County Hall, Caerphilly, Gwent NP44 2XN. Closing date: 1.11.84.

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Large expanding Greek Tanker Shipping Company is willing to pay top salary for suitable candidate experienced in Charter Party Disputes and able to work without supervision.

Previous experience with P and I Club/Solicitors or as Junior Counsel would be preferred.

Please apply in confidence stating qualifications and experience to:

PERSONNEL MANAGER, TROODOS SHIPPING AND TRADING LTD, Stock Exchange Tower, Old Broad St., EC2N 1HN

Senior Legal Officer

Kuwait

Major Oil Company in Kuwait with Multinational work force requires a Senior Legal Officer.

The successful candidate will be a member of a small team headed by the Company's General Counsel. The work has a considerable contract orientation, from contract drafting to negotiation and advice on dispute settlement, and also involves the provision of advice to senior management on a wide range of subjects.

Applicants should be Barristers or Solicitors currently engaged in the commercial law field, preferably in the oil industry, having at least five years experience of contract work relating to major construction projects. They should be able to demonstrate their effectiveness in a demanding and complex environment and ideally they should be under 45.

The total remuneration package is about £34,000 at current exchange rates. Salaries are presently free of Kuwaiti tax and are fully transferable. Conditions are excellent and include a wide range of side benefits.

Confidential Reply Service: Please write, before 25th October, with full CV quoting reference 1902/IE on your envelope, listing separately any company to whom you do not wish your details to be sent. CVs will be forwarded directly to our client, who will conduct the interviews. Charles Barker Recruitment Limited, 30 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4EA.

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Masons & Marriot require an assistant solicitor to work in the field of general/commercial litigation in Hong Kong.

Applicants should have between 1-2 years' litigation experience since qualifying and should preferably have a knowledge of the Cantonese and Mandarin languages.

Initial interviews can be held in either London or Hong Kong.

Applications with full CV should be sent either to Barrie Lloyd of MASON'S, 10 Fleet Street, LONDON EC4Y 1BA, or to Martin Harman of Masons & Marriot, 192 Caxton House, Duddell Street, Central Hong Kong.

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£14 - £20,000 + substantial benefits

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We are interested in applications from Solicitors in their mid to late twenties who have trained with a large City firm and have a minimum of one year's post-admission experience in a company/commercial department.

Candidates must be confident of their ability to make an immediately effective contribution in a challenging commercial environment.

To arrange an informal meeting at which these positions can be discussed in more detail, please contact Robert Digby, B.A., quoting Ref CF1084. All applications will be treated in strictest confidence.

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West End - Uxbridge

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To work a dynamic and incisive Solicitor or Barrister with a sound commercial brain and a proven track record in a key role. Able to demonstrate initiative and motivation, the new lawyer will need to advise, draft and litigate swiftly in a mobile international environment.

This is a specialist appointment aimed at the age range 35-45 and the successful applicant may expect a salary of up to £20,000 p.a. and an attractive benefit package. Please write with CV to:

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The successful candidate will be a Solicitor or Barrister with experience in either banking or building contract law. He will have been qualified for at least three years.

The salary will be c £24,000 per annum. Additional benefits includes transport allowance, free furnished accommodation and earnings related bonus.

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The Post is likely to appeal to applicants of five or more years qualified experience who have a good academic record and who are interested in pursuing a career in a thriving Litigation Department.

A good salary will be paid and the working conditions are excellent.

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Medium sized firm, W1 area, require two Solicitors with minimum of 3 years' experience - one to deal with company, commercial and tax matters, and the other a conveyancer capable of taking high volume of conveyancing and associated residential conveyancing systems.

Good salary, partnership prospects for the right person, in congenial atmosphere. Write with full CV in strictest confidence to Box No 18107.

